# Daily Report

# Latin America

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*FBIS-LAT-93-009* *14 January 1993*

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## Cuba

### Alarcon on New World Order, Relations with Spain

*FL1301142293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0332 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon emphasized the need to focus actions on a new world order which respects the rights of less developed nations. In a news conference in Madrid, Alarcon responded to a wide variety of questions on Cuba's internal situation and prospects, the current international scene, and Cuban foreign relations, among other topics.

Alarcon said Cuba's main priority in foreign policy is to defend its sovereignty, create conditions to break the tight U.S. embargo, and survive the current adverse conditions. Alarcon also considered it a priority to focus efforts on guaranteeing that the interests of Asia, Africa, and Latin America are respected in the new world order which is arising.

Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon stated that relations between Cuba and Spain are normal, even though the two countries have different points of views on various issues. Alarcon emphasized that relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries in general are better than ever, and he stressed that even though there may be differences of approach in a few matters, the nations of the region have many problems and interests in common.

Our foreign minister denied statements concerning recommendations or pressures by his Ibero-American counterparts for Cuba to modify its current socioeconomic system. Alarcon emphasized official statements by the Mexican Government, especially regarding trade with Cuba, which affirm that relations will not change despite the signing of the free trade agreement with Canada and the United States.

### Further on Alarcon Comments in Madrid

*FL1401025993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Friends, we have here on the "Exclusivo" program's worktable, a report from Nancy Zamora, PRENSA LATINA's correspondent in Madrid, that casts some light today on the new ways sworn enemies of Cuba's tried to manipulate the recent visit to Madrid of our foreign minister, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada.

The correspondent says Alarcon's activities in the Spanish capital included attending the meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers held on 11 January, as well as a meeting with his Spanish counterpart Javier Solana.

Following these events, several press articles explained that at the foreign ministers meeting, Cuba had been pressured to introduce changes into its political system. In brief later statements, Foreign Minister Alarcon de Quesada denied his Spanish counterpart ever having given him any advice whatsoever regarding Cuba's internal situation, and emphasized that the meeting was a meeting between representatives of two sovereign and independent countries.

The Cuban foreign minister said it would seem the meeting of Ibero-American foreign ministers had been held to discuss Cuba. He said, however, that our country's situation was not discussed at all at that meeting. In this connection, Alarcon de Quesada said that certain diplomats have a tendency to claim that they have said in meetings held behind closed doors, things they have not said and that they later make sure they say to the press. Although he did not mention him explicitly, Alarcon de Quesada seems to have been alluding to Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella.

Alarcon said he is tempted to propose that the next summit be held in a public place with journalists in attendance, so that they can report what is really discussed at these meetings. Alarcon de Quesada said it could, for example, be held at the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, where Argentine mothers have been demonstrating for years asking for information on the fate of their children who have disappeared.

### Alarcon Signs Chemical Arms Agreement in France

*FL1401030893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Today, in Paris, Cuba signed a historical agreement aimed at definitely eliminating chemical weapons from the face of the earth. The signing of the document was carried out by Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada who traveled to Paris to participate in the ceremony. The head of Cuban diplomacy is expected to give a speech tomorrow in the presence of representatives of the countries attending the convention. At the Geneva Convention on Disarmament, 127 countries agreed to sign the document, which was negotiated over a period of 24 years.

Today's ceremony was chaired by French President Francois Mitterrand, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. Among the latest developments of the convention is the creation of the International Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.

### Commentary on UN Agreement on Chemical Weapons

*PA1301183393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Miguel Cabrera commentary]

[Text] Cuba does not have chemical weapons of mass destruction, and soon it will show its peaceful nature

with the signing in Paris of a UN agreement for the elimination of those lethal objects. Reality will contradict the virulent U.S. campaigns on the alleged aggressiveness of the Cuban Government, which has also exhibited a peaceful position regarding agreements on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in Latin America.

Jorge Morales, Cuban ambassador for disarmament matters, recently said Havana is not only willing to sign the international agreement banning the development, production, storage, and use of chemical weapons approved by the United Nations in October, but it has also actively participated in 24 years of negotiations on the subject. He added that Cuban authorities hope the signing of the agreement will make a reality the goal of totally eliminating by 2007 this type of weapon that not only destroys human life but also has a corollary that affects agriculture and flora and fauna for a long time. Observers in Havana pointed out that the use of chemical weapons by the United States in Vietnam damaged the ecology in that Asian country, and the consequences are still felt today.

The agreement sponsored by the United Nations and approved in October 1992 must be signed by two-thirds of the UN members, that is, 65 countries. It would go into effect in 1995. In the interim, an international institution will be created with main offices in The Hague. That institution will design the mechanisms for control and verification.

It has been estimated that approximately 85,000 of the 100,000 tons of chemical weapons that exist on the planet are stored in the United States and Russia.

Cuba will definitely exert all its influence, as it has been doing so far, to make the objectives of this highly beneficial and encouraging agreement a reality.

Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon's presence in Paris will attest to the great importance Cuban authorities are placing on that event.

### Commentary Criticizes Document on Ties With U.S.

*FL1301164993 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Commentary by Nestor Nunez]

[Text] The document, "Cuba in the Americas: Reciprocal Challenges," recently published, was drawn up by a broad group of scholars, former politicians, and international figures. Their aim was to provide views on Cuban-U.S. relations in light of the changes that have occurred around the globe in recent years. Although the document's contents go so far as to admit that the Cubans' affairs are theirs alone to manage, in accordance with the principle of respect for national sovereignty, it is also true that this group still does not go beyond prejudiced evaluations of our country's situation.

Thus, their interest in seeking an end to an historic dispute, promoted precisely by the United States, should be noted as positive, along with their statement of respect for nonintervention in internal Cuban affairs. But, at the same time, they once again make the mistake of repeating the stale issue of promoting changes in Cuba through certain influences.

That is where one of the problems with these recommendations lies, because not meddling in someone's, some nation's, internal affairs is identical with the most scrupulous respect for their internal desires, internal opinions, and internal decisions. In contrast, when one talks about certain influences, of promoting certain mechanisms openly aimed at changing others' situations, one is in fact witnessing the first symptom of intervention.

Of course, we know the reasons for this controversial point of view, because it is also true that this group includes different tendencies, and these tendencies had to come out in some form. But beyond that, there is also a mistaken conditioning factor, which is that of perceiving the world, and democratic practices in particular, based on a stereotype, a dogma, and not as the door or point of departure for the most different experiences in this sphere, in which I think there is certainly still much to be said and done to really attain perfection.

As I said, one of the weak points of this document is this attempt to issue prescriptions, while admitting a respect for others which is rendered null in practice. It is not that we are opposed to listening to advice, healthy exchanges, or analyses of conflicting views. What we should never accept is even an insinuation that the proper course is to objectively ignore the right of others to do what they think best on their own territory, especially when their project, far from being sinful, is one whose essence exalts humanity.

### UJC National Bureau Meets; Robaina Interviewed

*FL1301030093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Live report from ExpoCuba on 12 January by reporter Grisel Perez including interview with Roberto Robaina]

[Excerpts] Good evening. We are broadcasting live from ExpoCuba, covering the first 1993 meeting of the national bureau of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] being held at ExpoCuba. I have invited UJC First Secretary Roberto Robaina to give us the latest details regarding the march by torchlight, and I would also like to know what is different about this year.

[Robaina] I think it is quite simply an exceptional year. This is a homage to an exceptional man, that is going to be paid at a moment that is, for the nation, also an exceptional moment. [passage omitted]

[Perez] Robertico, this year the seventh [UJC] congress is continuing the idea of the discussions [centros de debate]—18 of them. I would like to know why you are

going to start in January with the one on science and not the one on the food program.

[Robaina] [passage omitted] We started with science like we could have started with any one of them, but I think that with science, not only is the present discussed, but also the future, forcefully. And precisely, so that the youth of Cuba will play a better role in that present and that future, we want to discuss them quickly. [Words indistinct] a province and an area that has had great results in science. That too was one of the reasons we decided to begin with the discussion on science.

[Perez] All right. What is the UJC planning for 1993? Are there any noteworthy changes?

[Robaina] We have lots of plans; As for change, there is one I consider the most important. mainly, to tie the work of the youth of Cuba to the year 1993—that is, to the actual conditions in Cuba in 1993. However great 1990, or 1991, 1992 [words indistinct] might have been (?in the country), I don't think it is worth our while to dwell on what has been accomplished. What drives our work reasoning is, rather: What do we need to do right now? And, precisely, in order to see what needs to be done right now, we are trying to [words indistinct]. This is a time in which to draw on our values—our moral, patriotic, historical values. I think this serves as special motivation for the work of Cuba's youth. [passage omitted]

[Perez] This meeting of the national bureau, which began today with, precisely, some voluntary labor, continues, because ExpoCuba is four years old today (?and) we are still here. On with the television newscast.

## Lazo Congratulates Construction Sector Workers

*FL1201235493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2043 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] During an exchange of views between Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Santiago de Cuba Province, and representatives of the Micons [Ministry of Construction], Lazo congratulated the construction sector for being one of the sectors that worked most efficiently at self-supplying. Lazo urged the sector to maintain this spirit.

Among the projects that have been completed by the sector are the general hospital of over 1,000 beds, the medical biophysics center for the building of nuclear magnetic resonance equipment, the cooking oil refinery, and over 500 housing units.

## Addresses Agricultural Sector Leaders

*FL1201235593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2052 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] After producing a record 1.7 million quintals of tubers, vegetables, and grains in 1992, Santiago de Cuba's agricultural sector is making an effort to maintain high monthly harvest volumes of those foods. In this connection, Esteban Lazo, Santiago de Cuba Provincial Committee first secretary, acknowledged the work of the province's more than 30,000 agricultural sector workers. However, at the same time, he urged them to increase production in order to meet the population's needs.

Lazo told agricultural sector leaders that there must be a monthly schedule of plantings and harvesting that facilitates maintaining an uninterrupted flow in distribution.

The agricultural sector is currently being harmed by a severe drought that has lasted over seven months in Santiago de Cuba. This drought is causing low yields in boniato and yucca and lower weights in the clusters of plantains harvested.

## Praises Electric Industry Workers

*FL1401025193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] The national ceremony in commemoration of Electric Industry Workers Day was held at the Heredia Theater in Santiago de Cuba on the afternoon of 13 January. Seventy-two sector workers were awarded the (Nico Lopez) distinction before the ceremony.

In a letter he sent, National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] President Orlando Lugo Fonte thanked electricity sector workers for the benefits they have provided, especially to the rural population. Also, (Albernis Pulo), secretary general of the Chemical, Mining, and Energy Industry Workers Union in Santiago de Cuba Province, said the workers of Santiago de Cuba promise to maintain these achievements despite material deficiencies.

The (Rente) thermoelectric plant in Santiago de Cuba saved close to $17 million by efficiently consuming 200,000 tons of Cuban crude oil. Also, line damages were reduced and imported equipment was put back into working order. (Lidio Ramon), vice general director of the Electric Union, pointed out that the nation's electricity sector workers have recovered 5,000 transformers and manufactured 200,000 fuses and 1,000 breakers. (Ramon) added that if there have not been more power outages, it has been thanks to the initiatives for solving the resources deficit. Electric workers are planning to use over 900,000 tons of Cuban oil to overcome this deficit and guarantee the nation's principal activities this year. Also, projects important to the nation's electric system will also be completed, among them several (?substations); and equipment will be manufactured.

Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Santiago de Cuba Province, urged the electricity sector workers to continue their selfless work, especially during this year marking the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Barracks.

### Castro Meets With British Labor Deputies

*FL1201140993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has exchanged opinions with a delegation of Labor deputies from Great Britain on the current international scene and the Cuban economic situation. The delegation, visiting at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government, is headed by Deputy George Galway, who informed Fidel about the British progressive forces' situation in increasing and prioritizing solidarity activities with Cuba this year.

### Sweden Suspends $3.4 Million Aid Package

*FL1301031893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Friends, the Swedish Government has aligned itself with the great campaign against Cuba, which is promoted mainly by the United States on a world scale. The Swedish Government suspended an aid package to our country of 3.4 million dollars. Precisely to withdraw the help, considered humanitarian, the authorities of Stockholm claimed there was a violation of human rights in Cuba.

The decision provoked the angry reaction of the Swedish-Cuban Friendship Society's administration, especially its president (Eva Horclum) who accused the government of her country of practicing a double standard in its relations with Cuba. Mrs. (Horclum) said that in Cuba, human rights are respected more than in the rest of the Third World and that it is incredible that her government can withdraw aid for vital projects such as cancer research.

### Roundup of Economic Activity Reported 8 - 11 Jan

*FL1201132493*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 8 and 11 January.

The prototype house built of used construction materials was recently finished by minibrigade members in Marianao Municipality in Havana. It is estimated that Havana City throws out 112,000 cubic meters of construction debris per year, and that 95,200 cubic meters of this can be used after being sorted and cleaned. Needy persons can use these materials to repair their houses.

The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in Cienfuegos Province obtained the highest number of blood donations in their history, with about 15,700 voluntary donations in 1992. This is 3,000 more than in 1991. In Pinar del Rio Province, more than 100,000 passengers were transported in 160 animal-drawn vehicles built to alleviate the problems with public transportation. The vehicles can carry 10 to 20 passengers each. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan]

Agricultural workers and National Association of Small Farmers members of Trinidad Municipality, Sancti Spiritus Province, completed their cold-season planting program two months ahead of schedule. They have planted over 70 caballerias of tubers, vegetables, grains, and fruit trees to date, and have met their tomato planting commitment in the Algaba area, one of the province's biggest tomato producing areas. Trinidad Municipality farmers harvested 146,000 quintals of miscellaneous food crops in 1992.

The Basic Electricity Organization of San Antonio de los Banos Municipality, Havana Province, exceeded its operations plan for 1992, doubling its 1991 production. The work group surpassed the preceding year in the number of electric lines provided maintenance, put 36 transformers and 1,200 meters back into working order, and laid 16 km of lines.

Ciego de Avila Province's raw materials recycling enterprise had one of its best years in 1992, with workers exceeding their goals in the 13 types of materials recycled. The enterprise collected 9,049 tons of ferrous and nonferrous metals and 1,269 tons of paper, cardboard, glass, textile scraps, and plastics. The meritorious work of the 17 materials purchasing stores is also noted. [Radio Reloj Spanish 2030 GMT 8 Jan]

Cienfuegos Province harvested 1,613,000 quintals of vegetables and tubers, the largest harvest in its history. This achievement was a true challenge since they had to work with 40 percent less fuel than in the year before. This exceeds last year's harvest by 330,000 quintals. [Radio Reloj Spanish 1503 GMT 9 Jan] The year 1992 was a very good one for Las Tunas Province as workers concentrated on the food program, achieving the largest tuber production in history and meeting the basic livestock production goals. Las Tunas Province showed the greatest growth in Cuba in the last sugar harvest, and maintained its place of honor for cane byproducts, electric power production at the sugar mills, and agroindustrial construction projects. Las Tunas weeded over 50,000 caballerias of cane in 1992, manually, using chemicals, and using mechanized equipment; planted 2,300; replanted 4,350; fertilized and cultivated a significant amount of land; and set up 73 cane farms. The province also reduced crime, met its defense objectives, and made progress in food self-sufficiency. Construction workers finished over 30 construction projects, exceeded their housing-unit building plan, and contributed to getting the fourth steel rolling mill into production. The radio notes that this is Las Tunas Province's biggest factory. [Radio Reloj Spanish 2030 GMT 10 Jan] The Liberacion de Florencia set of water management projects in Ciego de Avila Province now holds more than 79 million cubic meters of water, which will be used to

irrigate 1,111 caballerias of cane and about 400 caballerias of rice in the northern region of the province. The reservoirs will also be used in the fish farming program.

The Conrado Pina Factory in Cotorro Municipality, Havana City Province, produced 383,000 bicycle tires in 1992, 279 percent more than in 1991. The factory fulfilled its plan to produce items used in the sugar harvest, including hoses and tires for carts. The factory also produces high-demand household items, e.g., 1.48 million pairs of fabric/rubber shoes in 1992. [Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Jan]

In 1992 over 83,000 Cienfuegos Province Cuban Workers Federation members participated in agricultural work, contributing some 340,000 workdays to the production of a record 1.6 million quintals of tubers and vegetables by miscellaneous crops enterprises. [Radio Reloj Spanish 1500 GMT 11 Jan]

There was an intiative by the Chemical, Mining, and Energy Industry Workers Union in Cienfuegos to package imported chemical reagents themselves that can save the nation some $11 million per year. Both imported and locally manufactured packaging is used. This initiative has reduced the cost of reagents by some 32 percent and is also being applied to reagents that are already being produced in Cuba. A center for packaging reagents will go into operation sometime this month at the Cienfuegos fertilizer factory, which itself also produces six reagents. The factory will initially be able to process 125,000 liters of liquid reagents and some 10 tons of solids.

The Heroes de Playa Giron Citrus Complex in Jaguey Grande Municipality, Matanzas Province, reached the highest levels of efficiency and production in its history in 1992, contributing over 25 million pesos to the economy. It produced 7,500 tons of juice concentrate for export and over 700 tons of baby food for domestic consumption. The complex also produced certain kinds of fodder for livestock feed. The number of tons of fruit needed to obtain one ton of juice dropped from 18 to 14.5 without harming the quality of the final product. This complex, one of three in Cuba, processed 30 percent of the harvest of Matanzas Province's Citrus Enterprise. An investment is being made to double the plant's processing capacity from 40 to 80 tons per hour.

Cuba can save close to $25 million this year through the work done by the Power Plant Maintenance Enterprise, which makes and repairs parts and equipment for power plants and other entities of the Ministry of Basic Industry. In 1992, the enterprise saved the country $21 million by repairing high-voltage motors and developing different mechanical devices. [Cuba Vision Network Spanish 2320 GMT 11 Jan]

## Haiti

### Council Invites Citizens To Observe Elections

*FL1301165093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The deadline for voters to present themselves at the Registration and Voting Offices closest to their homes for the renewal of their election cards is 15 January. According to the electoral council, it is that card that will allow them to vote in the elections scheduled for 18 January. The council says it has authorized both Haitian and foreign observers to come to cover the various phases of the elections. It therefore asks the representatives of diplomatic corps, international organizations, political parties and groupings, professional associations, unions, and anyone who would like to supervise the elections as an observer to present themselves to the Villa d'Accueil tomorrow, 14 January, for an accreditation card.

### 'Division Threatens' Permanent Electoral Council

*FL1301184193 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The electoral council has accepted 47 senatorial candidates and 15 candidates for deputies for the 18 January elections. It seems there is a threat of a division among the three members of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP]. During a tour in the Department of Grand'Anse, Jean Francis Merisier announced he will withdraw from the council if representatives of the executive power try to influence the workings of the institution.

Meanwhile, the president of the electoral council, (Balthazar Saint-Fort Line), has asserted that the elections will be free, honest, and democratic. The [CEP] president says the executive has not put any pressure on them and if pressure has ever been applied, only Merisier knows about it.

The council announced that the Haitian Army has set up a committee to work jointly with the CEP members to fulfill the elections.

Voter registration continues in the provinces. Our correspondents in Fort-Liberte, Cap-Haitien, Hinche, Mirebalais, Jacmel, and other areas tell us that many voters have registered. There are not many people, however, who participate in the electoral operations. In some Registration and Voting Offices, officials are beginning to put pressure on the voters to force them to vote.

### Symposium on Human Rights Begins on 12 Jan

*FL1301223893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] A symposium on human rights began on 12 January and will last four days. Human rights in Haiti is a major preoccupation of human rights organizations.

The symposium began with a tragic acknowledgement. According to speakers at the symposium, more than 3,000 summary executions were counted in the country where repression is at its height. Rothschild Francois Junior attended the opening of the conference on 12 January at the Christopher Hotel.

[Begin recording] [Francois] Human rights is the central theme of an international symposium which opened on 12 January in Port-au-Prince. This initiative is the work of the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights [director Jean-Claude Bajeux], the Lafontant Joseph Center, and the Haitian Platform on Human Rights, an organization close to Father Aristide. Through this symposium, which gathers numerous foreign participants, these organizations for the defense of human rights intend to denounce repression that is rampant, according to them, in the country.

Professor Herve Denis, in his remarks at this symposium, pointed out that this undertaking has as a goal its participation in the struggle for the fundamental freedom of humans so that the freedom the Haitian people want can finally be realized. In his remarks, Herve Denis condemned what he called the civilian-military oligarchy responsible for the 30 September 1991 bid for power. Mr. Denis thinks that this oligarchy was not ready for democracy. Herve Denis also condemned the international organizations which intend to impose a neoliberal model. He advocated putting aside this democratic and economic growth model which excludes the popular majority. The organizers of this symposium on human rights hope for the end of repression in Haiti.

[Jean-Claude Bajeux] The voice of the victims must be heard and our society must be aware of what is happening. Many people seem to ignore what is going on. We went back to the most violent abuses that were supposed to be the monopoly of dictatorships. After 7 February 1986, things occurred in the city which affected all citizens. We hope that those who are practicing repression, will think of what they are doing so they will stop it because it does not lead anywhere. Moreover, we hope to reinforce the institutions that must protect the citizens because we must admit that we are all citizens with citizens' rights. However, there are very few Haitians enjoying their rights as citizens. I, personally, do not consider that I enjoy the rights that I should normally enjoy in this country. I am ashamed of that.

[Francois] This international symposium on human rights which started on 12 January at the Christopher Hotel will end on 14 January. Several testimonies will be presented and various resolutions will be adopted at the conclusion of this international symposium. [end recording]

## St. Vincent and the Grenadines

### Government To Review Position on Haitian Refugees

*FL1301195593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Jan 13, CANA—St. Vincent and the Grenadines is likely to its position against accepting Haitian refugees, Foreign Affairs Minister Herbert Young said. [sentence as received]

"There's always a possibility," Young said in response to a CANA query, but he added it was not an issue to which the government had "given any serious thought."

Recent reports indicated the United Nations may ask Caribbean governments to accept limited numbers of Haitian refugees as part of the search for a solution to the crisis in Haiti that resulted from the 1991 military overthrow of elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide.

"We haven't been asked to do anything of this nature so far. I do not know if any request will be made to us but if any is done, one will certainly have to look at it," Young said.

Young said Prime Minister James Mitchell would have to be part of any discussion on the question of accepting Haitian refugees.

Mitchell last year had indicated his government would not accept Haitian refugees on the grounds that he did not want to exarcerbate the unemployment situation here.

He also said that his experience of refugee situations in other countries made him reluctant to introduce a similar situation here.

Meanwhile, Victor Cuffy, president of the local human rights association, said now was a good opportunity for Caribbean Community countries to demonstrate tangibly their abhorrence of what is happening in Haiti.

"We're very well aware, of course, of the heavy unemployment situation in all Caricom countries but, we are also certain that a very limited number of refugees in each of these countries will not be a catastrophe."

He said this would demonstrate that Caribbean governments were seriously concerned about obtaining a settlement of the Haitian crisis and the restoration of democracy there.

Cuffy said in the case of St. Vincent and the Grenadines a review of the decision not to accept refugees would indicate government's pronouncements of concern which they wanted to demonstrate by inviting deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to address the opening of a new session of the St. Vincent Parliament last month.

## Costa Rica

### Supreme Court Rejects U.S. Extradition Treaty

*PA1401010693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2351 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] San Jose, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Costa Rican Supreme Court reported today that it has decided "not to apply" ["desaplicar"] the extradition treaty with the United States because it considers that it violates the country's law and national sovereignty.

The court decided "not to apply" the treaty because it considers it inoperable following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of June 1992, upholding the kidnapping of people in third countries to submit them to U.S. justice.

The courts indicated that the kidnapping of people with pending U.S. legal cases is not part of the extradition treaty signed with the United States, therefore, it makes it unapplicable.

The ruling was announced after U.S. citizen James Karls presented an appeal here against a U.S. extradition request. Karls was indicted in the State of Wisconsin for his indirect role in the murder of a business associate and now faces "conspiracy to commit a crime" charges. Karls fled the United States and took refuge in Costa Rica, where he was found by the Costa Rican authorities and jailed in the San Sebastian detention facility in San Jose.

The extradition request was presented by lawyers representing U.S. interests based on the extradition treaty signed between the United States and Costa Rica in 1982, which came into effect in 1991. The Costa Rican decision "not to apply" the extradition treaty with the United States is the first action of this sort against the U.S. Supreme Court authorization of kidnappings overseas.

### Government Expresses Support for Attack on Iraq

*PA1401030293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0202 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] San Jose, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rica on 13 January expressed its "rejection" of the "persecution and genocide" unleashed by the authorities of Iraq in the southern region of that Arab country following an air attack on Iraq by allied forces headed by the United States, an attack that Costa Rica supported fully.

The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry states in a communique that the Costa Rican Government is concerned about developments in the Persian Gulf region, which have been triggered by the "irrational attitude" of the Iraqi regime.

The communique states: "Costa Rica strongly rejects the actions taken against the Kurdish and Shiite minorities that have lived on Iraqi territory continuously."

The Costa Rican Government expressed its support for the actions the international community is carrying out to promote full compliance with resolutions issued by the UN Security Council.

## El Salvador

### Army Demobilizes 2 Counterinsurgency Battalions

*PA1401040593 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Official sources have reported that the Salvadoran Army on 13 January demobilized two counterinsurgency battalions in the San Vicente and Ahuachapan Departments.

The Coprefa [Armed Forces Pres. Committee] reported that 467 troops of the Canas Battalion of the 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente were incorporated into civilian life.

The report adds that 400 soldiers of the Pantera Battalion of the 7th Military Detachment, headquartered in Ahuachapan, were also discharged as part of the Army reduction plan.

To date, the Armed Forces have dismantled a total of 17 counterinsurgency battalions, including four elite battalions that were trained by the United States.

### Shafik Handal, Aguinada, Ponce Discuss Army Purge

*PA1401135393 San Salvador TCS Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], recognized that the FMLN is willing to accept a gradual purge, but only for a certain group of officers who the FMLN believes have cooperated in the process and have accepted the dispositions of the ad hoc commission without knowing they were on the list.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] Five to seven only, and over a period of five months. [end recording]

The stability of the process, which President Cristiani emphasized in his report to the United Nations, is affected by all this.

Leftist politician Mario Aguinada Carranza believes the risk to that stability lies in the possibility that the president may not heed the recommendations regarding the group of military officers that Aguinada believes is the famous La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy].

[Begin Aguinada recording, in progress] ... and not risk the stability for a few officers, as those who will succeed the members of La Tandona are already in executive

positions, and some are already unit chiefs. The process, however, has yet to be fulfilled. [end recording]

Aguinada said the ideal thing would be for President Cristiani to form a new alliance with the young officers who are supposed to take over.

Defense Minister General Ponce said that what the United Nations said about the 15 officers is one position, but the final decision is in the president's hands. He said it is hard to fulfill the recommendations as there are no formal charges against the officers involved.

[Begin Ponce recording] I believe that is what is most appropriate for the stability of the process and internal peace. [end recording]

The fact is that time is passing and a decision will have to be made sooner or later because for many sectors, the Army purge is a point of honor as to the democratization of society.

## Guatemala

### Police Report Towers Blown Up; Nationwide Outage

*PA1401033293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0303 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Unidentified persons on 13 January used dynamite to blow up power towers on the southern coast of Guatemala which left the entire national territory without electricity, according to preliminary reports by the authorities.

The National Police have also received reports that some 10 bombs were placed in various parts of Guatemala City, and these bombs have not been defused yet, according to local radio stations.

Guatemala City was left without electricity as of 2030 (0130 GMT), and service has not been restored yet.

The National Police reported that youth gangs went into action in the Kennedy and Carolingia neighborhoods of Zone 18 of the capital city, where they attacked several drivers.

National Police have been sent to various parts of the country to guarantee the safety of the residents of this Central American country.

Reports from the National Police state that the alleged placement of bombs has caused a collective psychosis in Guatemala.

### URNG Demands Government Sign Human Rights Accord

*PA1401005293 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 11 Jan 93 p 53*

[Paid advertisement by the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, dated 10 January]

[Text] The fact human rights are not respected, do not exist, and are systematically banned unquestionably remains a critical point in our country. It is a brutal reality that touches society every day. It is a reality that no propaganda or subterfuge can hide.

Facts, events, effects, and structures comprise an historic and current situation in urgent need of a real and effective solution. Oppression, repression, terror, and impunity must end forever. Poverty, social injustice, and backwardness must stop. That is the first objective and first breakthrough to be attained if one truly wants to reach a political solution to the war.

A growing clamor by the nation and a watchful international community require, in a changed world, a prompt and just solution to the critical and unsustainable situation in the country.

If the political attitude of the government and top military command were different, the solution would be at hand and possible. It has become remote and difficult due to their reluctance to change and accept reality and to their lack of sincerity. They use formal, legal pretexts to hide a lack of political decision and commitment to democracy.

Once again it becomes necessary to state:
1. Respect for and the existence of human rights in Guatemala is urgent and unpostponable. That is why it is contained in the first point of the topics of negotiations agreed on between the government and the URNG.

2. This topic cannot be renounced in its content or its immediate implementation. To seek the contrary and defer its implementation does not constitute just legal nonsense but also political and moral inconsistency.

3. The URNG is aware of the urgency of the topic of human rights to guarantee life and the democratic and peaceful development of the country. For that reason, all its actions at the negotiating table are aimed at accelerating and giving substance to this vital topic. That is why we are proposing the need that it be immediately maintained and kept in force.

4. The stance by the government and some Army chiefs has hampered and delayed the signing of an overall agreement on this topic, first, because of their systematic opposition to the proposed points on human rights, which needlessly prolonged the discussion on them, and, second, because of their refusal to put into force and verify these points immediately. Their reluctance is currently the main obstacle.

5. The URNG is ready to discuss and reach an agreement as soon as possible on mechanisms to culminate a possible negotiation. This must be part of a serious analysis that would guarantee first, and in a consistent manner, the clear content of the negotiation. In addition, the participation of civilian sectors in the current process to seek a political solution to the war and the national problems must be established clearly.

6. The propaganda ploys and sensationalist proposals, as used by the government, only hamper the negotiating process and do not make it possible to advance and accelerate the process.

Based on the clamor at home and abroad, the URNG requires:

a. That the government of President Serrano give a serious and consistent signal of political commitment, by signing without further delays or conditions the overall agreements on human rights, so they can immediately enter into force and be verified by the international community.

b. That the government suspend a series of parallel policies that are contradictory and negative to move the negotiating process ahead. The slander and disinformation campaigns, the open and veiled threats, the repression of the civilian population, and the heavy-handed prosecutions are obstacles that some recalcitrant sectors of the Army and the government, enemies of peace, are consistently putting in the negotiation process.

[Signed] URNG General Command: Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Gaspar Ilom, Commander Pablo Monsanto; and Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Guatemalan Labor Party.

[Dated] 10 January

### U.S., Army To Begin Infrastructure Projects

*PA1301172093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 20*

[Text] The U.S. and Guatemalan Armies will conduct important joint infrastructure programs to benefit communities in Salama, Baja Verapaz under the general program called "Fuertes Caminos 93."

The program's objective is to strengthen actions to improve community well-being, health, and development. The Army Corps of Engineers will provide technical personnel and logistical support for the program activities.

U.S. and Guatemalan Army personnel will begin work on 12 January. They will build an elementary school and a high school in San Gabriel community, a school in San Pedro, Chicaj, and will repair the national departmental hospital.

Army personnel will drill potable water wells in Colonia Minerva, El Progreso community, San Miguel, Chicaj, Chiticoy, Pacush, and at Baja Verapaz Military Headquarters No. 14.

Personnel and equipment will arrive in the country in the next few days. The program was inaugurated with the completion of the potable water well in Colonia Minerva, Salama.

## Honduras

### Editorial on Use of U.S. Air Base at Palmerola

*PA1301185393 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Jan 93 p 6*

[Editorial: "The Transformation of Parmerola Air Force Base and Honduran Trade Perspectives"]

[Text] The Comayagua Chamber of Commerce and Industry has repeatedly stated the need to use Palmerola Air Force Base for exporting that region's products, which are mainly agricultural.

As is known, 1,200 U.S. soldiers are stationed at the military base and, although is euphemistically called "Honduran," its control is really in gringo hands. This is no real surprise if we look at the unconstitutional amendments made to the 1954 Bilateral Agreement on Military Assistance between the United States and Honduras.

Up to now, the authorities had avoided discussing the Palmerola Air Force Base issue. However, during the week of 4 January President Rafael Callejas publicly stated he would issue the necessary instructions to permit cargo planes to land at Palmerola, thus allowing exports of products to begin.

Apparently the first shipment to the United States could be made this month, as long as Civil Aeronautics, the Treasury Ministry, and the Migration Department make the proper coordination measures to establish a consistent and trustworthy export/import system at the Air Force Base right from the start.

If this presidential decision is true, we could say this event would ultimately mean the beginning of the return of Palmerola to Honduran sovereignty. As of now, this military enclave is the largest in Latin America, second only to the Panama Canal Zone.

The Palmerola military base has been used for U.S. intervention in the isthmus. It played a decisive role in the U.S. aggression against Sandinist Nicaragua and during the Salvadoran civil war.

Precisely because these two armed conflicts have ended—through the election in Nicaragua that brought President Violeta Chamorro to power and through the peace negotiations in El Salvador between the Cristiani administration and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) that ended with the military

demobilization and national reconstruction process now in effect—the "civilization" of this military complex is now possible, thus rendering it useful to the country.

Perhaps this way we may finally manage to transform Palmerola from the aircraft carrier USS Honduras into the main civilian airport in the country. This idea has been bounced around for several years now, as an alternative to the need to build a highly expensive airport in Tegucigalpa, for which there are insufficient funds.

The idea has its supporters and its opposers, as does everything in these tropics of ours. It remains true, especially as we look toward the future, that our country will necessarily have to enter a new commercial dynamics in tune with market liberalization and regional, continental, and global economic integration processes.

The strategic location of this aerial facility is obvious. Palmerola Air Force Base is located in the center of Honduras and in the middle of Central America, which generates a logical focal point for trade expansion and serves as an equidistant crossroads point on the route to the U.S. market.

Carrying out this endeavor, of course, requires the creative will of the Honduran Government, which must clarify its relationship with the U.S., as well as its internal relationship with the military.

## Bomb Destroys Former Army Commander's Vehicle

*PA1401130393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2336 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Police reported on 13 January to ACAN-EFE that three persons were injured by the explosion of a bomb placed in a vehicle owned by former Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez.

The explosion, which occurred in downtown San Pedro Sula (in the northern part of the country), injured three street vendors who were selling their wares near the automobile.

The vehicle had been parked by two of Gen. Regalado Hernandez' sons, who were in a shopping mall when the device exploded.

A police officer said the explosion destroyed windows in several stores along 3d North Avenue in San Pedro Sula.

No subversive group has claimed responsibility for the attack on Gen. Regalado Hernandez' vehicle. Regalado was commander of the Honduran Armed Forces between 1986 and 1990.

Regalado Hernandez currently lives on a farm located near Puerto Cortes, 300 km north of Tegucigalpa.

## President Callejas on Cabinet, Economy

*PA1301193893 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified moderator and domestic and foreign reporters at the Presidency Conference Room in Tegucipalpa—live]

[Excerpts] [Callejas] Good morning. I am pleased to speak with you. Through you, the government of the Republic has had very good and broad relations with the Honduran people. We will have weekly news conferences every Monday at 1130. In this manner, these good relations will continue throughout 1993 so the media will be kept informed and they, in turn, will keep the people informed in an objective manner. The media will have equal opportunity to the news. I would like to ask the reporters who work at the Presidency to abstain from requesting separate news conferences on issues that can easily be discussed on Mondays. In that manner, none of the media will be given any privileges and all of the media will have equal access to the Presidency of the Republic. Whenever there is a particular topic you wish to discuss in an independent manner, I will be glad to oblige, as long as this is not to obtain information before other media. We had excellent relations in 1992. I want to reiterate my government's commitment to develop an open policy with the media and to maintain very clear relations to keep the Honduran people well informed.

I have some decisions to announce to the people. In the first place, I am very sad to announce that on 9 January I met with Dr. Benjamin Villanueva, who has had health problems. He has temporary facial paralysis resulting from a virus infection in his left ear, which has pressured his nerves and caused a paralysis of the lower part of his face. Benjamin Villanueva has asked me to accept his request to leave the Finance Ministry, an action that will become effective 1 February. I am appointing Rene Ardon Matute for that post to be acting minister of finance until we make a decision on 1 February.

I want to reiterate that I felt very sad over the temporary—I repeat, temporary—situation of Dr. Benjamin Villanueva. He will be undergoing intense facial physiotherapy for at least three months, therefore, we must make changes in the Finance Ministry effective 1 February. I wish to emphasize that Finance Minister Dr. Benjamin Villanueva has been one of the most able officials of this government.

It is undoubtedly thanks to him that the fiscal situation of the country has made a radical change. The international fiscal credibility of the government of the Republic has depended largely on the work done by the Finance Ministry. As a result of the fiscal austerity policy, we will begin 1993 with a fiscal deficit of approximately 3 percent, which is within our parameters. The austerity measures have led this government to this situation, and it is mainly the result of the work done by Dr. Benjamin Villanueva.

I wish to express publicly my recognition to Villanueva as a public official, and I thank him for having worked with my government and the Honduran people. I hope he will recover as soon as possible so he can again serve the nation.

I also want to announce that we have appointed Marlene Urtecho de Salazar deputy economy minister. There are other administrative decisions, and we will make two of them public this morning. Both of these decisions have to do with the Communications, Public Works, and Transportation Ministry.

The first decision deals with the agreement to authorize Palmerola Airport on the Soto Cano Military Base to engage in commercial transportation services. Once customs measures regarding airport administration are implemented, the airport can be used as an alternate airport when meteorological conditions in Tegucigalpa are severe. [passage omitted]

This past weekend I was in touch with Mr. Keith Linder, the largest shareholder of Chiquita Enterprise and owner of the farm known as Tela Railroad Company in Honduras' banana sector. Mr. Linder has affirmed that his enterprise will not shut down the farms involved in a strike and that he wants to continue improving economic and labor relations with our country.

I want to take this opportunity to urge labor and enterprise leaders to end the strike because there is no longer a reason for it in view of Mr. Linder's commitment. He will reconfirm in writing what he said to me yesterday over the telephone. I am using this occasion to tell the workers that the farm problem has been resolved and that for their sake, that of the enterprise for which they work, and for the country's best interests, they can now end the strike that has created a difficult labor situation in the Tela Railroad Company banana area. I am respectfully asking them to do so.

Now we are prepared for your questions. We will go from left to right. Gustavo Ruiz has the floor.

[Ruiz] There is talk about a reshuffling of your entire cabinet. There is talk about the resignation of the Central Bank president. The reason for this is that it is a political year and the experts have already done their work and now you need politicians in your cabinet.

[Callejas] Politics is the science of administering the state well. Therefore one must administer the nation with the most capable people. The idea that the government must function with a political frame of mind to respond to political party demands is a mistake, because preferring political opportunities to healthy government results in deep contradictions. Therefore, any decision I may adopt regarding the cabinet and autonomous institutions will necessarily include persons with the characteristics I mentioned when I introduced my first cabinet: patriotism, honesty, ability, and loyalty. The officials you mentioned meet those requirements. They will leave the cabinet in May after the six months required by law. [as heard] Having said that, I do not mean there may not be other officials who, for personal or health reasons—as in the unfortunate case of Dr. Benjamin Villanueva—may have to leave the cabinet. Right now, however, I am not concerned with replacing people in posts that require high-level professionalism based on political interests. That would be a distortion of my opinion that the government must serve the people and not any particular sector. Juan Bosco Campos.

[Moderator] Comayagua correspondent Juan Bosco Campos.

[Bosco Campos] [passage omitted] Some months ago I was in your office on a kind invitation from you. There you showed us a draft outlining the Palmerola Airport's area dedicated to agricultural exports. Industrial installations have arrived, and there are donations from Miguel Facuse to expand that type of installation. My question is: Will the installations, the immigration offices, the airport terminal, and the independent entrance remain, or will there be a new design in line with new infrastructures?

[Callejas] In keeping with an executive agreement, the design of Soto Cano Air Base structures will depend on the services demanded and on the volume of goods transported to and from Soto Cano Air Base. Until we have an idea of the volume, we cannot make any permanent design and therefore the installations to be used will be of a temporary nature. That also applies to personnel. The personnel presence will depend on the confirmation that there will be flights going to Soto Cano so those people can handle the goods and the services that would become necessary as a result of this resolution.

[Moderator] German Reyes of ACAN-EFE.

[Reyes] I would like for you to tell us what preparations have been made by the Central American governments for the next two summits. One is scheduled to be held in Belize. It will be a special summit to discuss drug trafficking. Another is to be held in June in Guatemala City; it will be the 14th summit.

[Callejas] Regarding the Central American economic integration process, I am very pleased to announce to the Honduran people that the Central American Integration System, SICA, will be implemented as of 1 February in San Salvador. We are very honored to announce that the first SICA secretary is Dr. Roberto Herrera Caceres, a Honduran. This process entails several changes in both the mechanisms as well as the outlook of Central American integration. A new institutional figure arises from within the Tegucigalpa Declaration and the Tegucigalpa Protocol that gives life to Central American integration. Actually there are three figures: the legislative branch, that is, the Central American Parliament; the Panama Resolution that establishes the Central American Supreme Court of Justice; and the executive branch that is the Council of Presidents, or the presidents' meeting.

In other words, Central America will be on the path to true integration as of 1 February. The presidents' meeting will now have a new option. The Belize meeting is exclusively for discussing drug trafficking. Nevertheless, it has other very important repercussions, one being Central America's tacit recognition of Belize from an integration point of view. With our presence we are telling the people and Government of Belize that we feel Belize is part of Central America and we want it to join us in this process in due time and when it feels it is advisable.

As for the meeting in Guatemala, only the date has been set. As it will be the first meeting to be held after the Tegucigalpa Protocol and the Tegucigalpa Treaty [as heard], it undoubtedly has very important implications because it turns the Central American presidents into the administrators of the Central American economy, at least in theory, not in local decisions. Nobody is yielding sovereignty in that respect. I hope the binational commissions of each country are working to achieve the goal I proposed in El Salvador and which was reiterated in Guatemala on creating the Great Federation of Central American Republics.

So both meetings are very important. I must also report—and perhaps Central Bank President Ricardo Maduro can expand on this—that the common Central American tariff will become effective on 1 March. In other words, as of 1 March tariff terminology and the external tariffs for Central America are uniform, making Central American integration a fact. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Messrs. ministers, Messrs. listeners, Adolfo Hernandez, Hoy Mismo newscast.

[Hernandez] Mr. President of the Republic, when you talked about good news, you mentioned what is practically the solution to the problem that provoked a strike in the Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers. We have been reporting these strikes for quite some time; in fact, they started in 1954. Of course, I should not criticize the reasons for each of those strikes, but bananas are and will continue to be for a long time the country's main export. During an investigation of the labor strikes, which happen around this time almost every year, we heard statements by national and international experts. They have experience on banana production in Latin America. The strikes, most of which have an immediate monetary goal or seek the discussion of economic clauses in labor contracts, are detrimental to our economy. I do not want to attack the workers or defend Transnational here, I am simply concerned about the country's economy. How is the production of bananas, our foremost export, affected by this almost cyclical series of labor strikes? These strikes affect the economy because bananas cannot be exported and banana plants cannot be cared for properly. That eventually represents many millions of dollars in losses for our economy. What is your view on this series of strikes, and what could be the government's best banana policy?

[Callejas] The banana problem has many characteristics, and the labor conflict is one of them. In my opinion, one of the great limitations to the expansion of banana production in Honduras is conceptual. Early in the 1970's, banana production was considered a source of revenue by the governments of the Republic. What happened? Honduras applied a fiscal policy that was not modified until laws were issued to create fiscal incentives, exceptional rather than general. That policy had the following results: In 1972 Honduras exported 42 million boxes of bananas; Colombia exported 16 million. In 1990 Honduras exported 44 or 45 million boxes of bananas. I do not have the exact figure right now. Growth in 18 years: 0 percent. In 1990 Colombia exported 72 million boxes of bananas. In other words, its exports in 18 years increased by 60 [figure as heard] million boxes of bananas. That is an overall increase of 400 percent.

Every 2,000 boxes of bananas represents one permanent job and five indirect jobs. That means we have not increased jobs in the banana sector or our foreign exchange revenues in real terms in the 18 years up to 1990. In contrast, Colombia generated 30,000 permanent jobs, 150,000 indirect jobs, and obtained the equivalent of $300 million more in foreign exchange a year. Thus Colombia generated 30,000 permanent jobs, 150,000 indirect jobs, and almost $500 million more than Honduras in that same period.

In the past other administrations have tried to offer incentives in the sector, but we have managed to modify our banana policy so that it was not viewed as a fiscal but rather as a development policy. It was my intention, and this is how it is presented in the government program with which I was elected to the presidency of the Republic, to get Honduran banana exports to increase to 75 million boxes by 1994; an increase of 20 million boxes in my term. That goal will not be reached. Speaking optimistically, when my term is up I will leave the country with the capacity to export 55 million boxes; 10 million less than the goal but almost 10 or 15 more than in 1990. [figures as heard]

Throughout the entire process, the banana sector has also suffered a permanent labor conflict. We have had eight strikes in the banana sector since the latter part of the eighties and during my administration. Each banana sector strike lasting more than 10 to 15 days has very serious agricultural effects on the plantations because black sigatoka and other diseases develop.

The labor conflicts do not allow the country to even begin its banana expansion policy. During my administration alone, the strikes have cost Honduras the equivalent of 500 million lempiras and the inability to increase our production to 65 million boxes of bananas.

The lack of permanent attempts to solve the labor problems, although the government has given all its support to finding solutions, has meant the loss of 5,000 jobs a year and at least $50 million a year. During my

term in government, strikes have created a net loss of 20,000 permanent jobs, 100,000 temporary jobs, and at least $250 million in foreign exchange.

It is therefore imperative that once we overcome this phase, which I hope the firm and its workers will surpass soon, and taking into account the enormous difficulties for banana crops in the next decade, we can establish mechanisms to implement a new banana strategy that views the fruit as a primary source of exports and quality jobs for the country.

Nobody is specifically responsible for this endeavor. We are all part of Honduran society, and the banana problem concerns everyone. While the banana issue is permanently debated in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Colombia, the topic has been confined to a few sectors in Honduras, and that has fostered our difficult situation. There is no doubt, however, that a strike—regardless of the reason for it, as I have known strikes that originate due to an omission or the firm's negative action and strikes that have been specifically initiated by workers—seriously damages the country. According to my calculations, strikes have negative repercussions amounting to almost 500 million lempiras a year.

[Moderator] Gustavo Palencia of TIEMPO.

[Palencia] Lawyer Max Gil Santos, a Liberal Party delegate to the National Electoral Tribunal, said last week that you and the Armed Forces chief gave gifts and money to reporters, apparently in the form of advertisements.

[Callejas] Since I have been president I have never given a single cent to any reporter in the country.

[Castellanos] Mr. President, I am Roger Castellanos of Radio Tegucigalpa. Although you have said almost nothing about this, what can the Honduran people expect in the last phase of your government, considering you only have one year left? What would happen if the next administration does not continue the economic measures you established?

[Callejas] The economic program I promoted is not just happening in Honduras. It reflects a worldwide consensus. There are now two fundamental principles governing societies: democracy as a fundamental political aspect and economic freedom or the market economy as the basis for the economic relations of society and the world. Honduras cannot eschew that reality. Just a few days ago His Holiness gave a homily on the Catholic Church's thinking on this topic. He said peace can be found in the search for justice for the poor. We are going to reach out to the poor. To return to a state-controlled system where the government regulates society in political and economic terms would be an unnecessary return to the past. For that reason, any government that is freely chosen at the polls will have to continue supporting democracy as a political system and the market economy as an economic system. It happens that the process to deregulate prices and other kinds of circumstances that have surrounded my economic plan are the object of a valid debate from a political standpoint. Technically speaking, the results are tangible; namely, an increase in jobs and exports.

There are, however, negative aspects such as the increase in the cost of living. My government has acknowledged it and assumes its responsibility. For that reason it has created options that entail choices which must be made to guide society in the best way possible. From an economic standpoint, 1993 will be a good year, just as 1992 was a good economic year. As for the fiscal administration of the state, we lowered costs and the fiscal deficit, and we stabilized the prices of some products such as fuel. You have seen that after the 1990 surge we had a downward trend. In sum, we are aware of the people's problems, so we must continue with programs of this sort.

I want to dispel any lingering doubts about my answer to reporter Palencia. I personally have not given money to reporters since I became president. I have assisted some reporters who have come to the presidential palace with some problems. The problems range from health matters to school registration to car accidents. The presidential palace's management office has handled those cases. I make that explanation in case there are any doubts that the presidential palace does not take care of justified complaints by reporters. I personally have never given money to any one journalist.

The remarks by Max Gil Santos are not realistic. I think everyone must assume his responsibilities in handling his life and not try to accuse others. If he has erred in the Elections National Board, that is his problem. He has no reason to involve me in matters that do not interest me and that are not within his purview. [passage omitted]

[Medrano] Good afternoon, President. I am Carlos Medrano of [word indistinct] news. We understand you will be meeting with private sector, labor, and church leaders again this week. What new points will be discussed? Some private enterprise sectors continue to ask your government for changes in the economic adjustment program this year. They are also concerned about the increase in the minimum wage. What is your opinion?

[Callejas] Dialogue has been a great instrument during my administration. I have been holding talks on various topics such as education modernization, political issues, the constitutional implications of the judicial branch reforms, and the binational commission involved in the solution of Central American political problems. In other words, the dialogue has been useful and has had very good results. The meeting you mention is the result of one we held at the end of last year during which a number of proposals were made. As you remember, the sectors represented in that meeting supported the economic policy but wanted further explanations. We will be doing that on 13 January when we report on public expenditures and whether they will be reduced. They

especially asked for extensive reports on social aspects. They want to know what has been done regarding social development, education, health, housing, the minimum wage, and social security. That is why we will be meeting with them. The Central Bank president and some representatives of the health sector will be participating in this meeting. As for changes in the economic adjustment program, these topics need to be debated. We need to find out, within the framework of the economic adjustment programs, what is sought to improve the programs, whether there should be wage increases and improvement of the health coverage and educational system. There must be much more direct discussion of the situation. I have reiterated my position, which was supported in the previous meeting, in the sense that the market economy program and democracy as a means of individual freedom are the only way to solve the people's problems. Regarding the minimum wage, this involves a process that has been agreed upon since the beginning of my administration. The main rule is that the minimum wage, which is set every six months or every year, will be increased on the basis of at least the increase in inflation. Therefore there should be no concern because this is something that is already established in the strategy and policy for a national concerted effort. The minimum wage commission should be meeting at the end of the month. The inflation rate for the complete year since the minimum wage was set reached 8.8 percent. Meanwhile, the 1992 inflation rate was 6.5 percent.

[Medrano] It was 8.8 percent or 6.5 percent [words indistinct]?

[Callejas] From January to January it was 6.5. In the fiscal year, inflation was 6.5. [figures as heard] Therefore, the commission analyzing the increase in the minimum wage must evaluate this and propose an automatic wage increase based on that figure. I have heard only one person—I think it was the president of the National Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Honduras—express his concern about the minimum wage. In the meeting we held, the other business sectors expressed their satisfaction and interest in continuing this process.

[Rene Gomez] [Words indistinct] what is your government's position on Salvadoran citizens saying they do not accept Honduran sovereignty over border areas? This problem has emerged in Dolores.

[Callejas] There is an action that stems from the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruling, which states that the border must first be delimited. Once the border has been delimited, the citizens in Honduran territory will have two options: to request their Honduran citizenship or to state they are Salvadoran citizens; each one will accept such a circumstance within the national jurisdiction. This is a voluntary, nonobligatory action. We have been working with the binational commissions to deal with these requests, and we have begun the demarcation of Ocotepeque Department, moving downward. I hope we will have the border areas clearly demarcated this year or in the coming years. We have appointed Abraham Garcia Turcios as a member of the binational commission, and he will be responsible for visiting Dolores and other areas where these concerns arise. The binational commission is and will continue to be in charge of this.

[Jorge Barrios of LA PRENSA] My question deals with the situation on the border with El Salvador. It had been reported that the demarcation was going to begin in mid-December, but according to information I have, that activity has not begun. Can you tell us why? A newspaper today published the charge by the mayor of Opatoro, who said Salvadorans are threatening Hondurans so they will leave the Dolores area.

[Callejas] I have learned of that charge, and it is an issue that falls under the jurisdiction of Mr. Abraham Garcia Turcios, member of the binational commission. The demarcation process began in Ocotepeque Department on 11 December 1992, as stipulated by the ICJ ruling. In any case, we will make sure this is carried out because it is of utmost interest for national sovereignty and security that the border with El Salvador be completely delimited and demarcated as soon as possible. This is of interest to everyone, and we will act accordingly. Since your second question deals with the first question, I will tell you the same thing. Mr. Garcia Turcios has been appointed a member of the commission, and he will deal with these issues.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, I would like to ask you a second question. Everyone has asked two questions. Liberals have been saying that you have meddled in their political affairs. They say you want to create anarchy and remain in power two more years.

[Callejas] I have talked about this on several occasions. I am very aware of my constitutional mandate. In October 1989 I took to the streets and surrounded the Honduran Congress to avoid this type of attitude. I am an honest man, and I am proud and honored to have served my country as president of the Republic. When I ran for office I knew it was for four years. That is what the Constitution states and I will respect it. The government and the National Party, on behalf of which I can speak today because I have spoken with its president and its presidential candidate, have not involved themselves in the internal affairs of the Liberal Party. The dilemma is being dealt with inside the Liberal Party as a result of permanent charges of fraud being made by presidential hopefuls. They have accused each other of involvement in illegitimate, immoral actions in the latest elections. The Honduran people know about this. We have not participated.

[Torres] Good afternoon, Mr. President. This is Jorge Torres of RCN. You have repeatedly said you will turn over a clean desk to your successor, but do you not think the loans being signed by your government in the last few months will increase the national deficit and restrict the next president.

[Callejas] Absolutely not. On the contrary, I am going to turn over a financially healthy government, a country with a growing economy and with a rebuilt or expanded infrastructure, telecommunications in the process of a wide expansion, a stable currency, and a totally refinanced foreign debt. The new loans obtained by the country have been under extremely favorable conditions. The loans are almost donations. We are talking about a 40-year loan with a 10-year grace period and a 0.75-percent interest rate. The loan has fundamentally been used for investments. We have not used up international resources to maintain the government's size. On the contrary, we have reduced the size of the government. In that regard, we are going to leave behind projects for the incoming government, which include new infrastructure plans for the improvement of our highways and telecommunications as well as for the education and health systems in the country. When I leave, the country will be enjoying good fiscal and monetary conditions. I will leave behind a country with net reserves and not with a deficit in reserves of almost $500 million. We have been able to recover $700 million during the course of these three years of government. The next government will not have to face these conditions. It will have oil and medicines. Perhaps prices are not very favorable according to consumers, but they are the real world prices. There will be no limitations, there will be no contras in the country, and there will be no more ideological conflicts in Honduras. The Central American Common Market will have been left in order. The country will be in a condition to take care of its fundamental problems and the improvement of the situation of each individual will be done through economic growth and human development.

[Moderator] German Reyes will ask another question.

[Reyes] Mr. President, relations with the EEC have not begun on a good note this year. The new banana import restrictions should go into effect by July 1993. What is being done at the Central American or Latin American level to seek a solution to this problem with the EEC?

[Callejas] Undoubtedly, the position adopted by the EEC is highly negative for Latin American countries. It is a very serious problem for us. A series of political actions need to be taken by the banana producing nations in Latin America. In addition to the latest meetings that have been held and the just demands that have been made before the GATT, which is the organization in charge of international trade, we will continue to hold meetings at the highest political level. I have talked to Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen, and immediately after he reaches an agreement with the other presidents of banana producing countries, I am willing to visit him for a few hours in Quito, where a political statement will be issued once again. I have been in permanent contact with him. My trip to Quito will be immediately after the other presidents confirm their attendance to him. I already did. I told him I am willing to go on any date. It is a quick trip, and I would simply be going there to give him my political support. We continue to work on that issue and we have maintained a permanent strategy, especially with Costa Rica, in the search for just treatment for the banana producing countries, which are being seriously punished by the EEC.

## Nicaragua

### Government Reacts to Allied Air Strike Against Iraq

*PA1401025493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0124 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—On 13 January, in the wake of the air strike by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France against Iraq, the Nicaraguan Government headed by Violeta Chamorro expressed its hope that Iraq will "comply with" UN resolutions.

A presidential spokesman told ACAN-EFE that "Iraq's repeated failure to comply with the resolutions approved by the UN Security Council" led to the allied attack, and Nicaragua hopes that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will now "comply with" the UN mandates.

The spokesman emphasized that the Nicaraguan Government "is very respectful of UN resolutions."

In addition, the spokesman stated that his country "hopes for a lasting, negotiated solution to this situation," and the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry will closely follow the course of events in Iraq.

### UNO Declares Opposition to Government

*PA1301190793 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The National Opposition Union, UNO, has published a communique in which it officially declares itself in opposition to the government.

The communique states the new progovernment bloc is the Sandinist National Liberation Front and its supporters, with all the consequences that situation implies.

The communique added: Therefore, our position in the National Assembly will be that of attentive and vigilant members in defense of the people's interests.

The communique was signed by UNO leaders in the National Assembly.

### Comptroller Potoy Reacts to Lacayo Remarks

*PA1301212193 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Telephone interview with Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy by unidentified reporter in Managua—live]

[Text] [Reporter] We are going to interview Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy this morning after learning

that Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo told reporters on 12 January that the Presidency is going to remove Potoy. In reply to a question from a reporter who asked what will be done about corruption, Lacayo stated that in Nicaragua there is no comptroller. We have Potoy on the telephone to comment on the presidency minister's statement. Go ahead, Potoy:

[Potoy] Good morning Radio Catolica and Nicaragua. It was a surprise to hear this news from Lacayo. I say that because in Nicaragua there is still no procedure for dismissing the comptroller. I am frightened by his arrogant and rash statement that there is no comptroller. It is an abuse against the people. This is just one more abuse added to all the other abuses being committed in this country. The country will respond to it somehow. I do not think this gentleman is in his right mind. He has been doing one thing after another. He has been able to do many things because he is backed by weapons. That is why he says anything he pleases in Nicaragua. Nevertheless, there is no legal procedure to dismiss the comptroller. I want to tell the Nicaraguan people that the comptroller's office is the only independent thing left in Nicaragua. He has the Supreme Court and the Supreme Electoral Council in his pocket. The Sandinists have the National Assembly in theirs. It goes without saying that he also has control of the executive branch. He wants to be the top leader of the Nicaraguan Government and to control and order everyone. That is absurd. It goes against the democracy that is supposedly going to be established in Nicaragua.

I also want to say that the comptroller is being accused of being politicized. I was elected by people who were elected. My name was included on a list sent to the National Assembly, and that assembly elected the comptroller. Therefore, I was elected by people who were elected. It does not matter what my party or ideology is but that I am a man willing to work for Nicaragua to change all the corruption that has existed for a long time. It seems that in Nicaragua, one man orders what will be done and it is done, forgetting that the Constitution and laws exist. As for the charge that I have become politicized, I can state that the government has become politicized because Mr. Lacayo has tried to yield to, to satisfy, to please, and to appoint the gentlemen of the Sandinist Front. He has not wanted to remove those individuals already holding positions. This is difficult to understand in Nicaragua. As he has stated, Lacayo's greatest annoyance with me is that he has not forgiven me for mentioning him in the report on Antonio Ibarra [dismissed deputy presidency minister]. I tell the Nicaraguan people that Lacayo was mentioned in the Ibarra case because he was aware that Ibarra was stealing money and he let Ibarra steal as much as he wanted. I do not know if he is afraid that in the future, Guillermo Potoy will again mention any individual, no matter who he is, in a report about any other government institution.

[Reporter] We understand the National Assembly might take action in the next few days, but we have also learned that the comptrollership has drafted a number of reports that it will release on new cases of corruption. Are you going to speed up your work so these reports will be released?

[Potoy] Of course, we are going to make known all that the Comptrollership General of the Republic has been doing. No fool is going to say there is no comptrollership in the country. The comptrollership has its functions as established in the Constitution. The legal procedures were fulfilled for the comptroller's election. A list was sent by the Presidency to the National Assembly and it elected him. We are preparing a report on what the Comptrollership has been doing, even with the limited resources we were given. That was done so we would not do much work. Nevertheless, we have tried to stretch the money and do our work.

[Reporter] Can you mention any pending cases?

[Potoy] I am not prepared to do so yet because our work has not finished, but we have more than (?20) being processed right now.

## Panama

### Endara Inaugurates Fuertes Caminos 1993

*PA1301135593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] U.S. military units and Panamanian Government personnel have begun another Fuertes Caminos 93 joint program.

President Guillermo Endara Galimany inaugurated the Fuertes Caminos 93 program at Plaza de Caisan in Renacimiento District, Chiriqui Province.

General George Joulwan, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, Public Works Minister Alfredo Arias, several other ministers, national municipal and provincial authorities, special guests, and the general public attended the ceremony.

President Endara delivered a speech and stressed the benefits of this program for the region.

[Begin recording] [Endara] This is a joint task, and their help is priceless.

In this land, our American friends will find hardworking people, people who work the land, people who are not afraid of work, effort, and sacrifice for their loved ones.

This is the land of courageous men and women. This is the land of people who love their freedom and democracy and who are willing to risk their lives and health.

[Joulwan, in English, fading into Spanish translation] We look forward in this effort of Fuertes Caminos to help Panama to develop the full untapped potential of this region. [end recording]

The Fuertes Caminos 93 program is aimed at improving the condition of the routes for produce from the highlands of Chiriqui, particularly toward the Renacimiento area. The program includes the repair of 27 km of roads between San Andres and Plaza de Caisan and repairs to schools and health centers.

### Article on U.S. Ambassador Hinton 'Retirement'

*PA1301144693 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 6*

[From the "Improvisations" column by Alfredo Icaza]

[Text] Current President Guillermo Endara became the official spokesman of the U.S. Embassy when he disclosed at his weekly Thursday news conference the so-called Deane Hinton, who up until now functioned as ambassador of the republican system, would enter "retirement"...

Even the most naive persons in international issues know quite well that when the government over yonder changes on 20 January and the Democrats take over, every U.S. mission head will "resign"... and Hinton-...fired!

A person such as he, who has caused so much harm to us, as well as to the entire country, deserves only general scorn from all Panamanians who cherish our national dignity...

Let him go to hell. The sooner the better...

Let us hope the devil prevents such an individual from ever stepping on this soil of ours again.

He has been the worst U.S. ambassador to Panama. History will be responsible for reporting—with absolute clarity—all the harm Hinton caused our mismanaged and ill-treated country.

Everything because of a few high-and-mighty who—thank heaven—will soon be definitely and permanently brought down from their stereotypical clouds.

Maybe... My words... Will not fail!

### Arraijan Mayor Objects to Destruction of Crops

*PA1201194793 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] Arraijan Mayor Vielka de Saenz has objected to the fact that she was not even consulted before peasants' crops near U.S. training areas were damaged. Residents of communities such as Wiles, Santa Clara, and others were also evicted and have suffered severe economic losses.

[Begin recording] [Saenz] The action was taken without consulting anybody. I never received a telegram or a telephone call to tell me that something like this would be done and that the peasants' crops would be destroyed. I find this very objectionable. If they [not further identified] had notified me at least a few days in advance that they were going to destroy the peasants' property, I personally would have gone to the area and told the peasants to reap their crops because they were going to be razed.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Saenz] That is a good question. I understand that not even the foreign minister knew of the operation. He is also investigating the event to find out who is responsible. It is a very good question. Who will pay those peasants for their efforts, work, and struggle throughout the entire year? I ask the president of the Republic to answer this question. Who is going to pay the peasants' damages? [end recording]

### Commerce Minister on Joining NAFTA

*PA1301163593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 1A*

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Excerpts] Panama has great possibilities of joining the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which is being negotiated by the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Its participation, however, will depend on the modernization and restructuring of its economy, Commerce and Industries Minister Roberto Alfaro stated.

Alfaro, who participated in the second round of negotiations to establish the framework for the negotiation of a free trade agreement (FTA) between Panama and the United States, asserted that the country had better conditions than Mexico when it began negotiations.

Alfaro noted Panama has a strong currency and an advanced and efficient infrastructure of services to establish advantageous commercial relations. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Eduardo Vallarino, president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (Conep), stated that the establishment of an FTA would open an unprecedented market for the economy, which would give an extraordinary boost to the national economy.

Vallarino stated the FTA is much more important for Panama than its incorporation into the Central American Common Market, adding that the talks with the United States should be intensified.

### U.S. Requests To Lower Barriers

*PA1301163493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2254 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Roberto Alfaro, Commerce and Industries minister, stated on 11 January that the United States had requested Panama to

lower the tra... protection barriers it maintains on its industrial an... industrial sector.

Minister Alf... ...ed "they (the United States) would like us (Pana... ...o reduce the protection we offer our industries much faster than we are currently doing it."

He indicated that despite the U.S. request, the Panamanian Government believes several of our products "must remain under protection a while longer" to avoid severe damage to the economy. Minister Alfaro did not specify the tariff reduction margins requested by the United States.

On the other hand, Alfaro called on the U.S. delegates to start negotiations that would lead Panama to join "bilaterally" the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

On this issue, Minister Alfaro stated to ACAN-EFE that he felt "very optimistic" about Panama being able to sign a free trade pact with the United States in the future. Panama previously signed a "framework agreement" with the United States on 27 June 1991.

Nevertheless, Alfaro believes any negotiation on the issue would not be immediate.

"I do not foresee that we can accomplish it in the short term" the Panamanian minister stated, in pointing out that said negotiations "are being influenced" by the modifications President-elect Bill Clinton seeks to introduce to certain points of the agreement signed with Canada and Mexico.

Alfaro stated: "It could possibly take a year, or a year and a half to put the agreement into practice before Panama can adequately conclude any negotiation with the United States."

The commerce and industries minister headed a government delegation that carried out trade and investments talks on 11 January with a U.S. delegation headed by Myles Frechette, assistant U.S. trade representative for Latin America, Caribbean, and Africa.

Other issues discussed during the talks included the status of the Uruguay Round, Panama's incorporation into GATT, copyrights, and the modification of the Panamanian labor code related to the signing of a free trade agreement with the United States.

## Marine Resources Director on Tuna Embargo

*PA1301154693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] The United States has officially informed Panama of the embargo on tuna. The notification was made through a note from the U.S. Embassy.

Roy Cardoze, director general of Marine Resources at the Commerce and Industries Ministry, said the embargo implies a halt to Panama's exportation of yellow fin tuna and its derivatives to the United States.

The embargo went into effect on 22 December even though it was not reported until 8 January. The director added that the first 180 days of the embargo will not be felt heavily because Panama will be able to export to other countries. However, after 180 days, the rest of the countries will not want to receive our tuna for fear of having an embargo applied against them.

Cardoze reported that the case will be discussed at a free trade meeting between the United States and Panama. The Panamanian Government believes the embargo is unfair and unilateral.

[Begin recording] [Cardoze] The United States gave two reasons for imposing the embargo. The main reason was our change of policy from dolphin safe [two previous words in English] to quota, which is a policy the Inter-American Commission for Tropical Tuna [CIAT]. The CIAT believes the quota policy is best because if you do not fish for yellow fin tuna, which are accompanied by dolphins, and instead you fish for tuna that is found with logs [palos] [as heard], you fish for young tuna that have not spawned and have not reached sexual maturity, therefore they have not reproduced.

According to the United States, the other reason for the embargo is that a Panamanian flagged ship, the (Bojalete), killed approximately 300 dolphins during its last trip about three months ago, but that was no reason for an embargo because Panama fined the ship $100,000 and took away the flag. That is the appropriate procedure when a ship violates a disposition.

We are not inside the ship, we cannot keep the captain from fishing over dolphin. If he does so, we fine him, embargo him, and take away the flag. Besides, we were told by telephone that the incident was not the reason for the embargo.

[Unidentified reporter] Was the ship really Panamanian, or was it a foreign ship flying a Panamanian flag?

[Cardoze] It was financed by foreign capital, but it had a Panamanian flag. [end recording]

## IPCE Director Reports Trade Increase

*PA1401040393 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 1*

[Report by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] Joaquin Franco III, director of the Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute (IPCE), reported on 11 January Panamanian exports within the Foreign Trade Treaty with Central American countries registered a 27 percent increase in 1992.

Franco reported: "Panamanian exports under the Free Trade and Preferential Treatment Treaty signed with Central American countries registered a 40.7 percent FOB [Free On Board] value, which represents a 27 percent increase" compared with the previous year.

In 1992, 32 million balboas worth of merchandise were reported under the same system.

Franco explained that 57 percent of the exports—$23.4 million worth—was sent to Costa Rica; $7.8 million worth were shipped to El Salvador; and $6.2 million worth were shipped to Guatemala.

"Exports under that system represent approximately 70 percent of all the Panamanian exports to Central America," the IPCE director emphasized.

He also stated that the 10 most important products exported to Central America, through the Free Trade Treaty, are medicine, spices and seasonings, milk, fish, flour, mayonnaise, aluminum containers, tomato products, cosmetics, rum, and color concentrates to manufacture paints.

## PRD Communique on Corruption, Church Position

*PA1301165693 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p1*

[Communique issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, National Executive Committee in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] has pointed out the need to seek ways to eliminate the causes of so much unrest, mourning, pain, and disillusion inflicted on Panamanian society since the bloody invasion of 20 December 1989.

The stance taken by the Panamanian Episcopal Conference, as expressed in its recent communique issued on 8 January, which reflects the people's plea, pleases us and raises our hopes. The PRD shares the Catholic Church's position, when it says the present administration is deaf and blind to the enormous degree of corruption in the government. Such corruption has been reported by our party and proven by the latest statements by suspended Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

We also share the Catholic Church's position on the need to declare an amnesty to include four types of alleged crimes listed in their communique. In addition, we hereby request a swift and fair processing of the other cases and express our will to hold talks with whomever the Church should designate, to try and materialize this much needed amnesty.

Furthermore, we reject the grotesque position expressed by President Guillermo Endara and by other government officials regarding the statements made by the Catholic Church, and we encourage them to show the church the proper respect it deserves and that Panamanians demand.

Finally, we reaffirm our will to find a way to overcome the serious national traumas, government corruption, and division within the Panamanian family caused by the judicial persecution that has characterized the government since 20 December 1989.

[Signed] Ernesto Perez Balladares, PRD National Executive Committee general secretary

## Argentina

### Ministry Issues Communique on Persian Gulf

*PY1301204693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2018 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government announced today that "it is following with attention the events taking place in the Persian Gulf, where there is a new threat to peace through actions which aim to disregard UN Security Council resolutions."

In a communique released this afternoon by the Foreign Ministry, the government said that "it supports the terms of the declaration released yesterday by the president of the UN Security Council."

The Argentine declaration was released this afternoon in view of military actions in the Persian Gulf taken by the allied forces of the United States, France, and Great Britain.

### Menem Supports Attack, Offers Troops

*PY1301211893 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2029 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem said this afternoon that if the United Nations requests Argentine participation in the Persian Gulf conflict, "we will provide it."

Menem agreed to the possibility of sending troops. He expressed support for the action carried out by U.S., British, and French forces against Iraq in compliance with the UN measures.

Menem made these comments to the press just before leaving for Mar del Plata, piloting a Navajo airplane, where he will hold a cabinet meeting tomorrow. The president was wearing moccasins, jeans, and a yellow shirt.

### Peruvian General Arrives, Granted Asylum

*PY1301231193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2028 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 13 Jan (NA)—The Argentine Government today granted "territorial political asylum" to the Peruvian retired brigade general, Alberto Arciniega Huby, who arrived in Buenos Aires on a regular Argentine Airlines flight from Lima.

The interior minister adopted the measure "in mutual agreement" with the Foreign Ministry, after General Arciniega—who is charged with "insulting the nation" and "offending a superior officer"—requested political asylum.

The general asked for political asylum at the Argentine Embassy in Lima on 5 January, when he learned about a Peruvian Defense Ministry resolution ordering his trial together with retired Gen. Luis Cisneros Vizguerra. The trial was ordered in view of their public comments about Army Commander in Chief General Nicolas Hermoza.

Gen. Arciniega is the seventh Peruvian citizen to request political asylum abroad since the plan to oust President Alberto Fujimori on 13 November 1992 was frustated. [passage omitted]

### Official Position on Uruguay GATT Round

*PY1301153493 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 14*

[Text] Argentine foreign policy has acknowledged the delicate situation experienced by the Uruguay GATT round. When asked by CLARIN, International Economic Relations Secretary Alieto Guadagni said: "Our position is that of maintaining, with a firm attitude, the balance achieved in the draft of the final document. We insist on a broad liberalization of the agricultural and industrial areas and on strengthening the multilateral system."

For Argentina, the possibility of having agricultural trade free of subsidies, even within the attenuated version of the November agreement between the United States and the EEC, is extremely important. If the supply decreases as a result of the reduction of planted areas in Europe, Argentina could expect an improvement in international prices and an expansion of possible markets for its products. A step backward in the November agreements means a return to a world dominated by subsidies.

The Brazilians, however, have adopted preventive measures. The government of Itamar Franco has announced a decision to maintain a tariff protection of up to 35 percent in seven areas, including automobiles, computers, electronics, and electric home appliances.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso has stated that the government is thinking of maintaining the 35 percent tariff for those products until the year 2001. This alternative is provided for in the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] because they agreed in the latest meeting of the group (in December in Montevideo) on a maximum tariff of 20 percent, but with exceptions for a number of goods to be established by each of the four member countries of the Asuncion Treaty.

Itamaraty sources have confirmed that the reduction of import tariffs will be maintained within Mercosur, and that it will end in a zero tariff on 31 December 1994. They also reported that the four members now are negotiating the tariffs on imports from third countries to be imposed on different agricultural and industrial products.

Argentine diplomatic sources revealed that there is an important point within the document of the Mercosur meeting in Montevideo: The agreement that will be

reached on the level of protection of agricultural products, the international marketing of which is subsidized, will be higher than 20 percent. These sources told CLARIN that "almost surely the tariff for those goods will go as high as 35 percent." Even if the Uruguay GATT round ends successfully, only one part of international agricultural trade will stop being subsidized. But the truth is that for those exports that are still subsidized (within the ceiling authorized by GATT) there will be no chance to implement countervailing duties. It is for this reason that the possibility of establishing a ceiling has been provided for in the Mercosur.

### Air Force Leader Says Condor-2 Goals Achieved

*PY1401001593 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 93 Section 1 p 6*

[Article by Adriana Balaguer]

[Text] Pinamar—Concerning the dismantling of the Condor-2 missile, Brigadier Jose Julia, the Air Force chief of staff, said: "It is a strictly political issue." He added: "The objectives in building it have been achieved." Julia noted: "The Air Force's objective was to gain missile technology, and this has already been achieved. Therefore, there has been no frustration."

Julia stressed: "The Condor-2 began to be developed in the Air Force almost when I was a boy, and the idea was not to have a missile arsenal, but to develop advanced technology. Well now, this has been achieved. A component of the missile's guidance system was missing, but when I took over the project it had already been suspended."

Julia added: "The technology was gained. It is known, and this cannot be lost. The fact of not having the apparatus does not change anything." In conclusion, Julia pointed out: "The Air Force's objective was to gain missile technology, and this has already been achieved. Therefore, there has been no frustration."

## Brazil

### Foreign Minister Supports Strike Against Iraq

*PY1301215093 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today released a note expressing concern over the crisis in the Persian Gulf and Iraq's disrespect for the UN resolutions.

The Itamaraty note states that Brazil supports the current UN resolutions and reiterates that this resolution is being complied with by all countries.

When he learned, late this afternoon, of the U.S., French, and British air attack on Iraqi military bases, Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso confirmed the Brazilian position on the issue:

[Begin Cardoso recording] Iraq has shown disrespect for these decisions, and this has given the United States and the other countries the freedom to take action. The UN Security Council resolution allows for any sort of action, including military, if the resolution is not respected, and Iraq has not done so. [end recording]

## Chile

### Novoa Registers As UDI Presidential Hopeful

*PY1301201493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Excerpts] Jovino Novoa has officially registered as a presidential hopeful for the UDI [Democratic Independent Union]. Amid cheers from militants gathered at the UDI headquarters, Novoa said he aspires to become the candidate of unity of the rightist sector. He said:

[Begin Novoa recording] I have decided to register as a presidential hopeful and will respect the decision of the upcoming convention, the greatest in our party's history. The UDI's presidential candidate, who will emerge strengthened by this internal process, aspires to become the candidate of unity. The UDI presidential candidate will be firm, committed, and above all, loyal. [end recording]

Hernan Bucci, one of the 40 UDI advisers who upheld Novoa's candidacy, said that he was the best alternative. He said:

[Begin Bucci recording] I believe Jovino Novoa is the best person to represent the UDI. [end recording]

Meanwhile, UDI leaders Hernan Larrain and Andres Chadwick charged Andres Allamand [National Renewal Party leader] with creating false and unnecessary conflicts with the UDI by manipulating the names of possible independent candidates, including that of Carlos Caceres who refused to be the candidate for the rightist sector. [passage omitted]

Larrain categorically denied the UDI was responsible for Carlos Caceres' decision not to run as a presidential hopeful because it insisted that Jovino Novoa should be its candidate and added that Andres Allamand's charges are irresponsible and absurd.

### Russian Ambassador Interested in Developing Ties

*PY1301135993 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Vasiliy Gromov, new extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Russian Federation to Chile, has paid Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas a protocol visit.

According to Gromov, during the meeting they discussed the development of bilateral relations between the two

countries. Gromov did not dismiss the possibility of establishing contacts with Chile in the military field.

[Begin Gromov recording] We have discussed the development of the relationship between Chile and Russia on the bases of the latest developments. Our relationships in the economic, commercial, political, and technical-scientific fields have developed fast. Personally, I think: Why not develop our relationship in such an important field as the military? [end recording]

During the late President Salvador Allende's administration, Gromov was also ambassador to Chile.

## Colombia

### Columnist Views Clinton's Foreign Policy Agenda

*PA1401121393 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Jan 93 p 5A*

["Profile" column by Rafael Santos: "Clinton, the Rookie"]

[Text] The direction that U.S. foreign policy could take under Bill Clinton is still a mystery, and he is only 10 days away from being sworn in as president of the United States. His team of advisers is almost complete but world events are creating situations that perhaps he would prefer not to see on his agenda, the agenda of a chief of state who has somewhat slighted international issues.

U.S. troops have landed and are fighting in Somalia as part of a multinational force that must make sure that humanitarian aid, now being lost because of actions by anarchist rebels, reaches millions of starving people. If this effort produces desirable results—as it appears it will—then Clinton may have to face, very soon, growing international pressure to do something similar for the hundreds of men, women, children, and elderly who are being murdered or who are freezing in the cruel Bosnian winter.

In the Persian Gulf, war is once again brewing. Saddam Husayn, the maniac Iraqi dictator, is bored because he has no one to fight and he is betting now that during this transition period in the United States he can do as he pleases. He wants to take advantage of the transition period to recover sovereignty over a southern portion of Iraqi territory where he has been prohibited from carrying out any kind of military mobilization. He believes that President-elect Clinton will be more cautious in reacting because Clinton will not want to begin his administration by assuming the political cost of a new military intervention in the Gulf.

Husayn loves to believe that in international matters, Clinton will keep a lower profile than President Bush, who is about to leave the White House. Bush has been acknowledged as a tough president who will make himself respected even if it requires military force. The steps Clinton may take in the face of difficult situations, such as the ones that apparently are taking shape in Iraq and Bosnia, are so far a mystery.

It is true that President Bush's decisions have been fully backed by Clinton. This is what you may call a sense of responsibility and common sense. This does not mean, however, that Clinton will take Bush's foreign policy route, which is that of the "world's policeman." Husayn is betting Clinton will not take that road. He apparently views Clinton as a person without experience in international affairs, as a hesitant man with a huge domestic agenda that will keep him busy, an agenda that was the base of his election platform.

Bush has vast experience in international affairs, but this is not the case of the governor of the poor State of Arkansas. An old fox like Husayn could strike in ways that could catch Clinton by surprise. During the election campaign, Bush said his dog knew more about international matters than Clinton and his running mate, Al Gore. However, so as not to undermine Clinton, Bush has said in his latest visits abroad—to Somalia, Russia, and France—that President-elect Clinton is a knowledgeable and tough man who has international experience.

The apparent shortcomings of Clinton as leader of the world's foremost power could carry many surprises. Bush has set very high standards. His international policy record is brilliant and much respected, even if he is criticized for excessive interventionism. The democrats have been out of the White House for so many years and the achievements of the last Democratic president, Jimmy Carter, were so meager, that the return of this party to power has aroused understandable fears. World politics and the role of the United States in the world have significantly changed. The new administration will be facing a trial by fire that will measure how much maturity and composure the Democrats gained during the 12 years they had to watch from the outside.

### National Police Report on Crime Statistics

*PA1301220993 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Jan 93 p 10b*

[Text] Regarding crime in Colombia, 1992 was a year of contradictions. Kidnapping figures were considerably lower than in 1991, terrorism continued at the same rate, and the homicide rate increased by 8 percent.

The fight waged by the authorities produced real results: three chiefs of the Medellin cartel's hired assassins were shot to death and three others were captured. In addition, a guerrilla leader was sent to prison.

The number of successful operations to counter terrorist attacks increased, but the number of policemen killed increased to almost 600 in the context of two wars unleashed by drug traffickers and guerrillas.

This is what a preliminary National Police report, which includes all crime fronts in the country and which EL TIEMPO presents to its readers, reveals.

**Homicide**

Against all forecasts, the number of homicides continued to climb in 1992.

Up until November 1992, 24,763 people were either murdered or killed in vehicle accidents. The monthly average was 2,251. If that average were maintained, the total number of victims for 1992 would be above 27,100. In 1991 there were 25,110 homicides reported.

In the last 365 days murder cases, excluding cases in which the victim did not die, increased 8 percent compared to 1991.

The police figures only cover the period until 30 November 1992.

The figures show that nearly 600 policemen were killed while on duty last year.

**Kidnappings**

Kidnappings were considerably reduced compared to 1991. In 1991 there were 1,717 cases of reported kidnappings. Authorities reported 1,136 cases in 1992, which is a 33-percent reduction.

As for rescue operations led by the Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Unit (Unase) and the National Police, 142 victims were set free in 1991, and 131 were freed in 1992.

During their first year of operations, the Unase, which was strengthened, rescued 42 persons and the police rescued 100. Unase rescued 42 persons and the police 89 in 1991.

**Drug Trafficking**

Over the past three years drug trafficking figures have changed the most when compared to the other criminal cases faced by the country.

Statistics on authorities' actions in response to this type of crime show that in 1990 16,000 kg of drugs were confiscated, and in 1991 the figure increased to 59,347.133 kg.

The significant part of the report is that in 1992 authorities confiscated only 28,016.149 kg, which represents a 53-percent reduction compared to 1991.

As for poppy plantations, the situation was completely different. In 1991 authorities destroyed 4,340,707 million plants, and 84,534,200 million plants were destroyed by the police and the Army throughout the country in 1992.

**Terrorism**

The two fundamental types of crime that have led to terrorist acts in the last three years have been the same: guerrilla actions, which have included numerous attacks against the civilian population, and narcoterrorism.

While the figures in the hands of the authorities show that in 1991 a total of 926 cases of terrorism were reported, in 1992 criminals carried out 1,100 attacks.

The actions carried out by the authorities also increased: In 1991 a total of 61 explosive devices were defused. In 1992 the figure was 149.

Guerrilla attacks, which include ambushes, attacks on towns, and road obstructions totaled 341 in 1992.

**Common crime**

Along with guerrillas and drug trafficking, common crime continues to be a serious element of social destabilization, but the number of incidents was reduced.

Official statistics show there were 351 bank assaults resulting in losses of 3,717,169,410 billion pesos in 1992. In 1991 a total of 379 bank assaults were reported with losses of 5,386,653,673 billion pesos.

Hijacking on the ground also decreased, particularly due to greater control by the authorities on the country's highways. In 1991, 525 cases were reported, and 437 cases were reported last year.

A similar success was obtained in the recovery of illegal weapons. Authorities were able to confiscate 17,319 weapons in 1992 compared to 12,347 weapons confiscated in 1991.

## Medellin Gangs Receive Car Bombs From Cartel

*PA1301221293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Excerpt] On 12 January police intelligence sources confirmed that the gangs of criminals and paid assassins operating in Medellin have car bombs ready to be activated whenever they want. These sources confirmed to reporter Carlos Mario Giraldo that the gangs received the car bombs as gifts from the head of the Medellin Cartel. Here is a report by Giraldo:

[Begin Giraldo recording] According to police investigations following the accidental explosion of a car bomb in Valderrobles neighborhood, some Medellin drug trafficking gangs received car bombs which they must use against the authorities.

Secret reports and new information obtained after investigating Oscar Nestor Jimenez, also known as La Lora, and Alexander Toro, members of a Manrique neighborhood gang, prompted police to declare themselves on special alert against stolen cars.

In the debris left by two explosions, police found that the detonators in the bombs had some malfunctions and were unsafe. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### Lebrija Mayor Reports Threats on Life

*PA1301175693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Telephone interview with Lebrija Mayor Luis Eduardo Ortiz by Juan Gossain; place not given—live]

[Text] [Gossain] The Extermination Commando is a new subversive group of unknown origin that has begun to operate near Lebrija Municipality, Santander Department. The so-called Extermination Commando has threatened Mayor Luis Eduardo Ortiz, and Ortiz has decided to take a firm stand. Good morning, Mr. Mayor. How are you planning to do this?

[Ortiz] Good morning to all your listeners. This has been an uncomfortable situation since the beginning of our term. I want to serve the people who elected me, but unfortunately I have come across a series of obstacles. I have received three death threats. People are trying to intimidate me and keep me from doing my administrative work.

Given that uncomfortable situation, with the municipal council's approval, I have decided to offer five million pesos to any person who reveals which criminals or gangsters have written these pamphlets. These criminals are cowards who can only muster enough courage to send threats.

[Gossain] What do they accuse you of, Mayor Ortiz?

[Ortiz] Well, there are really no charges. For example, the pamphlets are labeled No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3. They mention a number of people, including alderman Luis Eduardo Ortiz and Municipal President Henry Estela. They also mention other men, including Bruno Vasquez, a former alderman in this municipality; a young man who is now employed in Bucaramanga; Henry Amaya, another alderman; Henry Rodriguez, a young man who lives here; and Saul Hernandez, a labor union member. The letters mention Communists, guerrilla members, blackmailers, etc.

[Gossain] Could this be an extreme right group, or perhaps a paramilitary group?

[Ortiz] Well, the pamphlets imply that, but we have never believed it because I have never had political ties. I have been serving the community for eight years. I was involved in several projects, including Alcoholics Anonymous, marriage counseling groups, parents groups, Colombian citizens associations; the only thing I did not do was join the Legion of Mary!

[Gossain, laughs] Yes. The Extermination Commando is threatening you, but has it committed any crimes in the region?

[Ortiz] Two gunmen attacked Henry Estela, president of the municipal council, at his house. They managed to injure him.

[Gossain] How long ago was this done?

[Ortiz] The attack was perpetrated about six weeks ago.

[Gossain] Was this done following communique No. 1?

[Ortiz] Following the second letter.

[Gossain] In other words, this is serious.

[Ortiz] Yes, yes. This is serious. I now have to travel with four bodyguards and I must be careful of everything. Information is always leaked so I must make some changes to counter the group's measures, if I am to believe the latest rumors. We have yet to clearly ascertain who is involved in this. The situation is certainly tense, and it makes my work difficult. However, we are determined to put up a fight, and the people who want things done well should cooperate.

[Gossain] Mr. Ortiz, to conclude, do you believe political or personal enemies are behind this so-called Extermination Commando?

[Ortiz] I had no enemies in this municipality before I was elected. I get along well with everyone. In fact, my election was based on a pact, and I was supported by all the political groups. Nevertheless, the situation has revealed that panic ensued when we won the elections. We cannot rule out the possibility that this has something to do with politics, just like I cannot rule out the possibility of a guerrilla or criminal group being involved.

### Guerrilla Groups Offer Rewards for Weapons

*PA1401023493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 13 Jan (EFE)—General Manuel Sanmiguel Buenaventura, second commander of the Colombian Army, confirmed that on 13 January guerrilla groups offered rewards to soldiers who turn in generals, or their own rifles, to the rebels.

The high-ranking military commander said: "They offer rewards as part of their psychological efforts to undermine the soldiers' spirit and in an effort to demoralize them."

Nevertheless, Gen. Sanmiguel Buenaventura added, the soldiers "are not mercenaries; they do not work for a reward."

Referring to the rewards, he said "no soldier wants to collect any of the rewards offered by the government in the struggle against subversion, so they are not about to sell themselves for the rewards offered by a group of criminals."

For several months, the Colombian Government has offered millions [currency not given] in rewards for the country's top guerrilla leaders, including Manuel Marulanda Velez, also known as Tirofijo, commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. It has also offered the same amount—approximately $1.3 million—for Manuel Perez, a former Spanish priest and the head of the Army of National Liberation.

The second Army commander also confirmed the guerrilla groups have "invited" the soldiers to desert and join the revolutionary struggle.

Gen. Sanmiguel Buenaventura said it "is ridiculous" for the guerrilla groups to offer the soldiers rewards for turning in high-ranking military commanders or their own weapons.

## Ecuador

### Duran-Ballen Stresses Need for Cooperation

*PA1301201193 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] On 11 January President Sixto Duran-Ballen admitted before the diplomatic corps accredited in Ecuador that he had to adopt severe economic and administrative measures to change the country's course. He also stressed the need for international cooperation.

[Begin Duran-Ballen recording] My administration requires effective and generous help and understanding from the international financial community to attain its objectives. To that end we have made realistic and creative proposals to be able to meet financial commitments and reduce foreign debt. My government wants to negotiate frankly, and at the same time we hope to receive positive replies from our creditors and from multilateral economic institutions. [end recording]

We will honor our commitments to recover our good name with the international financial community and obtain their support for our efforts to achieve real development, President Duran-Ballen concluded in his speech to the diplomatic corps.

### Urges EC To Review Banana Quotas

*PA1301201393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] President Sixto Duran-Ballen on 11 January once again urged EC representatives to review customs regulations and quotas on Central American banana exports.

[Begin Duran-Ballen recording] Our peoples' development is not possible, dear ambassadors and heads of missions, when communities of highly organized and developed states put restrictions on small countries that are still in the process of integration and advancement, which prevents them from attaining their objectives.

I hereby issue a fervent call through the dignified representatives of EC nations to have those governments reconsider the decision adopted on Latin American banana exports. That decision, gentlemen, will seriously affect the Ecuadoran economy.

As you know, Ecuador is determined to integrate with all the Latin American states at all levels as soon as possible . [end recording]

### Alfaro Lives Faction Joins Political Life

*PA1301201593 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 93*

[Text] On 11 January a faction of the Alfaro Lives Group that did not lay down its weapons in February 1991 signed a pact with President Sixto Duran-Ballen's conservative government and publicly and effectively joined political and civilian life. Patricio Leon, a leader of the group, delivered a communique to Government Minister Roberto Dunn Barreiro. Here is his statement:

[Begin Leon recording] We announce our decision to join other political and democratic forces by creating a legal and political organization through which we will give continuity to our proposal for an Ecuador where social justice, democracy, and authentic national sovereignty will prevail. [end recording]

We invite all forces within the Alfaro Lives movement—with which we maintained public differences—to unite and create a legal political organization based on a unified Alfarista plan, within the framework of mutual respect, with the members of the Alfaro Lives faction that decided to surrender their weapons and join the country's social and political life.

### Indians, Public Employees Stage Protest March

*PA1401153993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2342 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Quito, 13 Jan (EFE)—Approximately 10,000 Indians and public employees marched on 13 January along the main streets of Quito to the Presidential and Legislative Palace, while similar protests took place in several cities in the interior. Several highways were also blocked.

Union leaders announced that the protests, which were a rejection of plans to privatize the social security system and a demand for more hospitals and agriculture credits, among other things, constitute the prelude to a new national strike against President Sixto Duran-Ballen's administration.

The United Workers Front (FUT), which brings the principal urban workers together, called for a "pots and pans protest march" for 14 January.

Police and local radio station reports indicate that the marches and protests took place in at least eight of the 21 provinces throughout Ecuador.

The police told EFE there had been no incidents in Quito, that the Indian groups had begun to arrive during the night of 12 January, and that they were staying in tents at the central park located in the north central district of the capital city.

In the interior of the country, however, the police had to clear blocked highways as well as confront protesters, but there were no reports of casualties of arrests.

The Indian leaders met with Government Minister Roberto Dunn in a closed-door meeting in Quito. Minister Dunn canceled a news conference that was supposed to follow the meeting. The main body of protesters were kept about 100 meters from the Presidential Palace. The police had also closed side streets.

Afterward the protesters marched to the unicameral National Congress and were received by Christian Democratic President Carlos Vallejo, who expressed his support.

The protesters also demanded an extension of the coverage offered by the Rural Social Security that provides benefits to 805,000 persons, one-third of the Ecuadoran Indian population, which is approximately 30 percent of the 10 million inhabitants.

## Paraguay

### Rodriguez Repeats Pledge To Defend Rights

*PY1301140893 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 12 Jan 93 p 10*

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez stated this morning that the government is unswerving in its commitment to protect human rights. He also pointed out that there are some people who seek to "turn the clock back." This statement was made during a ceremony at the Americas Hall of Lopez Palace before the Senate chairman, the Chamber of Deputies chairman, the chief justice, ministers, ambassadors, Human Rights Committee members, the UN representative, and other government officials.

Rodriguez further stated that his administration is giving proof of its adherence to democratic principles because, more than ever, he said: "The Paraguayan citizen, the rank and file of society, has the opportunity to voice his ideas. More than ever throughout Paraguayan history, citizens live under the protection of the law. The judiciary operates in a free and independent way. Every person enjoys complete freedom to lead their own life and is only required to respect other people's rights."

He pointed out that people openly criticize the government every day, and there are some who, "taking advantage of this situation characterized by the respect for freedom and constitutional rights, even intend to alter the course of history and turn the clock back."

Rodriguez underscored the fact that the ratification of the San Jose de Costa Rica Pact is a momentous step in Paraguay's institutional life, and he specifically mentioned the signature of Decree No. 16078, whereby the Paraguayan Government accepts the competence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to hear and try cases of human rights violations. Rodriguez noted that "from now on, the Inter-American Court is empowered to hear any allegations of human rights violations in Paraguay."

He went on to say that "Paraguay is not an island; it cannot feign ignorance of the most inspiring principles that permeate the Western Hemisphere's moral conscience. Anyway, if we say it is an island located in the heart of our beloved Americas, it must then be an island where freedom reigns, for the Paraguayan people have decided so since the dawn of its history—the May Revolution of 1811—and since what we hope will be a definite revolution—the movement of 3 February 1989, which forever consolidates freedom, justice, and democracy in our land."

He asserted that his administration, which has given sufficient proof of its adherence to the aforementioned principles, "has nothing to hide and will proudly abide by the verdict of history. Hence, I have no reason whatsoever to reject the competence of the Inter-American Court, because I very well know that human rights are respected here."

### Buried Drums Did Not Contain Toxic Materials

*PY1301193893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 13 Jan 93 p 24*

[Text] According to tests conducted by the Pan American Health Organization [PAHO], the drums that were found buried at Teniente Ochoa [a military base in the Chaco] did not contain any toxic material. On 12 January Public Health Minister Cynthia Prieto Conti informed President Andres Rodriguez of the results of the tests by the PAHO, thus clarifying a case that has caused a lot of controversy.

The PAHO tests are clear and official. They show the absence of organochlorine, organophosphorus, or polychlorinated pesticides in the samples tested. Prieto Conti explained that 14 samples were tested, including earth, foliage, leaves, and plants.

"No active pesticides of any type were found. The drums are completely clean. This demonstrates that we acted in accordance with international rules and regulations when these drums were buried," the minister stressed. She added that reports that the drums contained toxic material are false.

The minister stated that the Public Health Ministry has not buried pesticide drums in any other part of the country.

With this report the Public Health Ministry once again confirms that the drums that were found at Teniente Ochoa did not contain any type of toxic material that

could place human lives or the ecological system in danger. This subject had been debated due to the manner in which the drums were buried.

The test results will be submitted to the congressional committee that investigates illegal procedures. It was this committee that prompted the discovery of the drums in the first place after it had received a formal charge of their existence.

## Peru

### Supreme Court Approves Extradition Request

*PY1401021493 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 6 Jan 93 p 13*

[Excerpt] The Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court yesterday approved the request for the extradition of former President Alan Garcia Perez, who has been in asylum in Colombia, in order to be brought before Peruvian courts for trial.

Garcia is charged with alleged crimes connected with the reduction in the number of Mirage airplanes bought by Peru; the transfer of important accounts from Peru's Central Reserve Bank to the Bank of Commerce and Credit International; and the holding of undeclared accounts in foreign banks.

The Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court, which is presided over by Justice Victor Raul Castillo Castillo, decided during the morning session of 5 January that in light of the fact that the accused has failed to appear before court of his own accord, the court has to order his immediate arrest.

This is the reason why Justice Carlos Hermoza Moya, who is hearing the first stage of the criminal case against Garcia, ordered Garcia's arrest instead of issuing a summons. [passage omitted]

### Police Arrest Lawyers for Shining Path Links

*PA1401044893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Lawyers Alfredo Crespo and Jorge Cartagena Vargas reportedly will be presented to the media on 13 January. The two men—who are the former lawyers of terrorist leaders Abimael Guzman, Marta Huatay Ruiz, and Osman Morote Barrionuevo—were arrested after it was found they were connected with the Shining Path.

It was learned on 12 January that lawyers Alfredo Crespo and Jorge Cartagena Vargas were arrested simultaneously. Cartagena Vargas was arrested by the Dincote [Counterterrorism National Directorate] in his office on Lampa Avenue, just a few blocks from the Palace of Justice. As is recalled, he defended Osman Morote Barrionuevo, the number two man in the Shining Path, as well as Marta Huatay Ruiz.

Meanwhile, Alfredo Crespo was arrested near his home, on Camaroneros Street where he had been living for the past 12 years. According to his neighbors, no one ever suspected he had a subversive relationship with Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Did he ever hold any meetings here?

[Unidentified neighbor] Never.

[Reporter] Did he ever talk to the people about politics?

[Neighbor] No, absolutely not.

[Reporter] What do you think about his arrest?

[Neighbor] We are very much surprised. [end recording]

Dincote unofficially reported on 12 January that very compromising documents were found in the two homes that identify the lawyers as active members of the legal arm of the terrorist group. In each case, Dincote had been conducting thorough investigations during the past two weeks, observing the lawyers' unusual movements and contacts with individuals of dubious reputation.

Concerning these two important arrests, the Dincote announced that the reasons for the arrests will be made public on 13 January when the two lawyers and the evidence seized will be presented to the media.

## Uruguay

### Army Studying Purchase of Military Equipment

*PY1201215993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1809 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Jan (EFE)—Military spokesmen announced today that the Uruguayan Army will soon renew its weaponry, and that it is studying offers from companies in Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

The spokesmen said that the need to renew the weaponry of the Uruguayan Army, most of which was purchased in 1980, became evident with the experiences of the Uruguayan batallion with the UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia.

The Uruguayan Army currently uses the Argentine-made FAL [Light Automatic Rifle] rifle, but a military spokesmen said: "It was proven that under adverse weather conditions this rifle is not good as a personal combat weapon, as it is heavy and it is useless when wet."

Military experts will study samples and catalogs before deciding on the purchase of rifles and artillery. In addition to the FAL rifle the Uruguayan Army uses MAG machine guns, SMK-3 submachine guns, and Browning pistols, all of which are made in Argentina and were purchased during the "de facto" Uruguayan regime (1973-1985).

### Bomb Explodes at Revolutionary Movement Office

*PY1401134993 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0830 GMT 14 Jan 93*

[Text] It was learned in the last few hours that the Uruguayan Revolutionary Movement [MRO] office was attacked with a bomb early on 13 January. The MRO office is located at 1259 Maldonado Street. According to neighbors who heard the explosion, the bomb went off at approximately 0200 [0400 GMT] on 13 January, but the report was released only a few hours ago.

According to technical police sources, it was a homemade bomb using black powder and a safety fuse. The explosion made a hole 50 cm in diameter between the main door and the sidewalk.

According to MRO leader Mario Rossi Garretano, who made the report at the 2d Police Precinct, this attack must be attributed to the ultra-right. We already have been the object of another attack, he said. He reminded that seven months ago, when the MRO's future expulsion from the Broad Front was being discussed, he was also the object of an attack when his car's brake fluid hose was cut.

## Venezuela

### President Views Allied Attack Against Iraq

*PA1301202493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1946 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Caracas, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez regretted the resurgence of the military conflict in the Persian Gulf and, at the same time, ratified his support of the U.S. Government.

In statements made at government headquarters, President Perez said "we have to admit the United Nations made an effort to avoid the situation."

The allied forces launched an air attack against Iraq on 13 January. France, the United States, and the UK had repeatedly warned Iraq about raids by its soldiers into Kuwaiti territory in the past few days.

Asked about the Venezuelan position regarding the conflict, Perez said his government would support "the UN decisions and, thus, supported the U.S. position."

Venezuela is Iraq's partner at OPEC, an organization formed by 13 countries.

### Court Martial Exonerates 99 Defendants

*PA1301195393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The Court Martial submitted a report on 13 January at Fort Tiuna regarding the 27 November coup attempt. The Court Martial is formed by Gonzalo Bajares, National Guard Division general; Manuel Andara of the Air Force; Ismael Guzman and Angel Revete of the Army; and Vice Admiral Jose Rafael Huizi Clavier. The 99 defendants exonerated by the ad hoc court martial are expected to be released on 13 January. The list of the defendants is made up of 40 civilians, seven National Guardsmen, 32 Army soldiers, eight Naval Force members, and 12 aviation servicemen.

### Defense Minister on Fort Tiuna Incident

*PA1301170593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez said a few moments ago that the Military Supreme Court has 72 hours to decide to uphold or correct the sentences handed down by the special court martial. He also denied that relatives, lawyers, and legislators are not permitted to visit those prosecuted for their involvement in the 27 November coup attempt.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez Sanchez] I think that what occurred was that on the morning of 12 January there was a problem at the Military Police Regiment. The colonel in command of the regiment entered the area where the soldiers under military prosecution are held. He entered the area with some maintenance workers. He was kidnapped there, and in view of such circumstances, we have to adopt preventive measures. At that time, entry into Fort Tiuna was restricted. As with any military installation, access must be restricted. It is not a public facility. It is a military installation. After the situation at the regiment was resolved, there was normal entry and departure from Fort Tiuna.

[Unidentified Reporter] You are sure this only occurred on 12 January and that the rest of the time there has been normal access, in other words, greater access?

[Jimenez Sanchez] There has been greater access, within the restrictions for all military installations.

[Reporter] What are the conditions of the imprisoned military officers? They are complaining about crowded conditions, bad food, [words indistinct], lack of communication?

[Jimenez Sanchez] It is true they are crowded. We were not prepared to hold 200 military prisoners at a specific time. This forced us to make arrangements at other installations, such as the Military Police Regiment, where there is some overcrowding. We are trying to correct this problem. We were doing that on 12 January when they kidnapped the colonel. Workers were entering to make repairs. With the release of some of the prisoners in the next few hours, we will be able to improve the situation. [end recording]

### CSE Issues Communique on 12 January Incidents

*PA1301191993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 13 Jan 93*

[Text] The vote-counting commissions of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] will continue their work on 13

January to definitely establish the winners in the different states that had problems during the latest elections. Simultaneously, top officials of the CSE are holding a meeting to discuss the incidents of 12 January, which prompted them to request the intervention of the Attorney General's Office.

The CSE president read an official communique stating the actions and methods of the Metropolitan Police were incommensurate with those of the demonstrators. It denied bearing any responsibility for the incident, explaining the actions of the police were totally unconnected to the CSE.

Meanwhile the officials of the Attorney General's Office announced they will begin an investigation of the incident, based on the reports by forensic doctors on the injured persons.

[Begin Victor Hoyer, legal adviser of the District Attorney's Office, recording] We will ask the courts to conduct an investigation. It may be a regular inquiry or a penal inquiry. [end recording]

## Guyana

### Court Dismisses Petition to Restrain PM

*FL1301022493 Bridgetown CANA in English 0001 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 12, CANA—A high court judge Monday threw out a petition for an interim injunction restraining Guyana's Prime Minister Sam Hinds from carrying out his duties on the grounds that his appointment contravened a section of the country's constitution.

"The judge has refused the injunction to restrain Mr. Sam Hinds from acting as prime minister," defence counsel Arthur Alexander told CANA Tuesday.

"He (the judge) has left us to pursue the substantive issue...That is, our action still remains that he was prematurely sworn in and that also anything he has done after having been sworn in would not be valid," said Alexander.

High court judge James Patterson, who was hearing the constitutional motion against Hinds, refused to grant the interim injunction blocking Hinds from "holding himself out" as prime minister.

Citizen, Noel Elliot filed the motion against Hinds on the grounds that his mid-October appointment contravened Article 1:01 of Guyana's Constitution, which states: "The president shall appoint an elected member of Parliament to be prime minister." Hinds was not sworn in as a parliamentarian until December 17, when the 65-seat National Assembly was ceremonially opened for the first sitting of the sixth Parliament.

Alexander, a parliamentarian from the main opposition People's National Congress (PNC) and now deputy speaker of the House, said the substantive action would now be heard before a judge in open court. It was previously before Justice Patterson in chambers.

He said: "The matter is still very much alive. All that would have happened is that if the judge had granted the injunction, well then, he could not have acted, or continued to act as prime minister until the substantive action had been heard." Hinds can now continue his duties pending the outcome of the action in open court.

"This is only one phase of the matter and it is open to us to appeal the chamber court's judge decision, or not so to do. That is a matter we are contemplating," the attorney told CANA. He said the defence wanted the matter to be concluded "one way or the other" in the shortest possible timeframe. "This is not an end of the matter...Far from an end."

Alexander could not say when the substantive action would be heard in the high court.

### Rice Exports, Earnings Doubled 1991 Levels

*FL1201171493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1603 GMT 12 Jan 93*

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 12, CANA—The state-run Guyana Rice Export Board (GREB) has described 1992 as a "truly phenomenal and unprecedented year" in which rice exports and earnings doubled their 1991 levels, the state-run CHRONICLE newspaper reported Tuesday. Claude Housty, general manager of the GREB, was quoted as saying that 1992 exports, amounting to 115,102 tonnes, were the highest in almost three decades. Earnings totalled 4.3 billion dollars (1 Guy dollar = 0.80 cents U.S.) [conversion as received]

The previous highest export figure, since 1962, was 104,761 tonnes in 1978. Exports in 1991 amounted to 54,047 tonnes, which the STABROEK NEWS newspaper said produced earnings of 2.1 billion dollars.

Housty mentioned good weather and a drop in local consumption as two main factors contributing to the industry's 1992 export performance which was 49 per cent above the official target. The principal export markets in the Caribbean Community [Caricom] were Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, and St. Lucia. Extra-Caricom buyers included Holland, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and the Netherlands Antilles.

Guyana's rice industry has set an export target of 100,260 tonnes for 1993. Anticipated earnings are close to U.S.34 million dollars.